New Abu Sayyaf attack a setback–AFP

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Garcia heirs score property developer

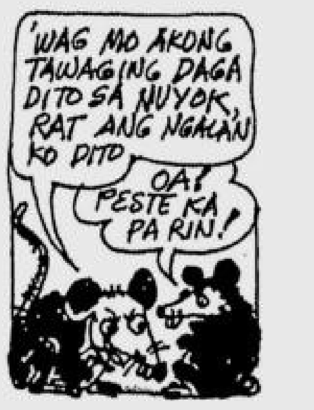
BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE LATE PRESIDENT Carlos P. Garcia would have pondered the problem over a game of chess.

But not the heirs and fellow Boholanos of the only Philippine president who was a chess aficionado. They are up in arms.

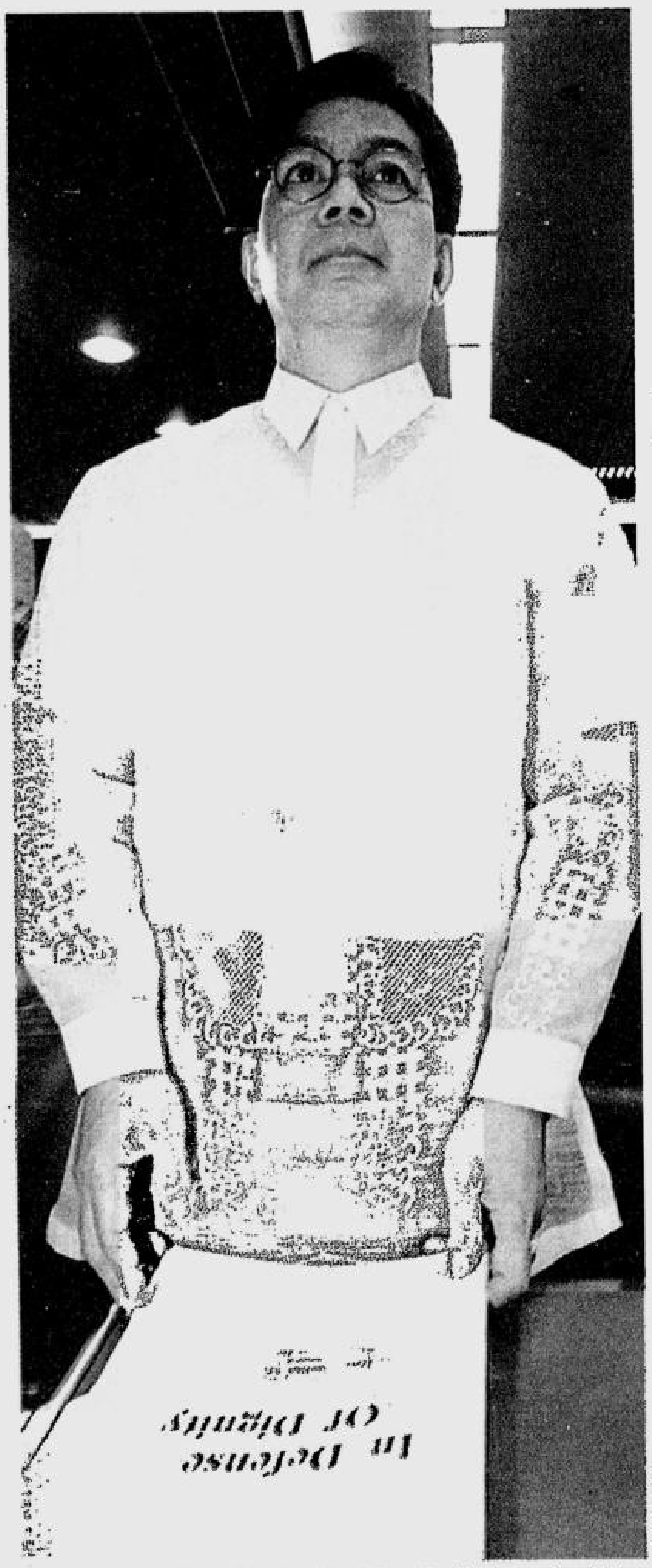
GARCIA/ A15

It's a real rat race in the US


'WAG MO AKONG TAWAGING DAGA DITO SA NUYOK, RAT ANG NGALAN KO DITO
OA! PESTE KA PA RIN!

RAT infestation is a problem not limited to poor countries like the Philippines; even developed nations like the United States

IT'S/ A15



JESS YUSON

"IN DEFENSE of Dignity" is the title of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's privilege speech which he delivers on Monday at the Senate to answer allegations by AFP intelligence officers of his multi-million dollar hidden hoard in the US.

'They're stupid; accounts false'

Loi: I'll resign if HK account is proven true

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

"MY ACCUSERS have finally become mad."

Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson Jr. yesterday tried to punch deep holes into military intelligence claims that he holds hundreds of millions of dollars in deposits abroad, saying that the bank account numbers of his alleged accounts can easily be proven false by their format alone.

"*Hindi lamang sila mga tamad, mga tanga pa sila!* (They are not only lazy, they are also stupid)," he said of a joint military and police intelligence team that claims to have gathered evidence that Lacson, his wife Alice and ex-President Joseph Estrada had stashed a total of $728.5 million in three countries.

In his first privilege speech as senator, Lacson admitted selling one house in the United States, but said it was worth $170,000 and not $750,000 as investigators had claimed. He denied owning any other property in that country. ***(Excerpts of speech on Page A6.)***

Lacson also admitted opening an account in a Bank of America branch in Los Angeles in 1995, but said "I think I closed it in 1997 or 1998."

Asked by another senator why he had opened it, Lacson replied: "I just wanted to open a bank account in the US. I don't see anything wrong in that."

Col. Victor Corpus, head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), revealed over the weekend a list of 18 Citibank, Bank of America and Wells Fargo Bank accounts allegedly held by the Lacsons and Estrada in the United States, Hong Kong and Canada. The list was published in the INQUIRER on Sunday.

Lacson, former chief of the Philippine National Police, appealed for a formal investigation into Corpus' allegations, "if only to protect the interest and honor" of the Senate.

"I have been sent to hell without trial," the neophyte senator said in the 17-page privilege speech delivered yesterday afternoon, as he "most vehemently" denied holding any accounts abroad.

Sen. Loi Estrada also delivered another privilege speech in which she denied Corpus' charge that she also owned an account in Hong Kong containing $180 million.

"If it is proven beyond reasonable doubt that there is such an account, I will resign immedi-

THEY'RE/ A6

JESS YUSON

SENATOR LOI EJERCITO, in her own privilege speech, dares military intelligence chief Victor Corpus to either prove she owns a $180-million account in Hong Kong or resign.

Is it possible? Yes, say Camacho, other int'l bankers

BY CLARISSA BATINO

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and other international banking experts yesterday said it was possible for Sen. Panfilo Lacson to have amassed hundreds of millions of dollars and laundered the amount through bank accounts in the United States, Canada, and Hong Kong even if the money came from illegal drug trafficking.

"When you talk of proceeds from drug-trafficking, it really can reach huge amounts because it can be a big business," said Camacho, who used to head the local unit of Deutsche Bank.

Camacho, however, said he has not received a copy of the report on Lacson's alleged money laundering and that his

IS/ A7

Minority senators back Ping

BY MALOU APALISOK, JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

OPPOSITION senators yesterday backed beleaguered Sen. Panfilo Lacson's position that the Senate should immediately investigate the claim of military intelligence officers that Lacson has hoarded hundreds of millions of dollars in bank accounts in three countries, according to Sen. Edgardo Angara.

Sen. John Osmeña is planning to ask the Senate to subpoena intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus to ask him to support his charges against Lacson with bank records.

"There is a natural inclination to protect your own kind. We cannot stand back like nothing has happened," Osmeña said.

Saying "it is easy, very easy to manufacture" accusations, Osmeña said Corpus should have "supporting, corroborative documents" confirming his accusations that Lacson, his wife Alice and ousted President Joseph Estrada had accumulated more than $700 million in bank deposits in North America and Hong Kong.

Corpus "should have documentation. He should have copies of bank statements, bank reports. We are not going to accept at face value his figures as printed in the INQUIRER," Osmeña told the INQUIRER in a phone interview in Cebu City on Sunday.

He said any Senate investigation into the allegations against Lacson would put the upper chamber "to the test" because "from the very beginning there is an old-boy network in the Senate."

Senate President Franklin Drilon said there is nothing in the Senate

MINORITY/ A6

Lawyers ask Lacson to go on leave; Left, Church seek probe

THE LEGAL sector, Church-based and militant groups and members of the House of Representatives yesterday aired a flurry of calls for the investigation of Sen. Panfilo Lacson for alleged money laundering in the United States, Canada and Hong Kong. A group of lawyers also asked the senator to go on leave.

Human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong said American lawyers would be asked to assist a Philippine legal panel in prosecuting the senator.

Capulong, who heads the panel composed of the private prosecutors at the aborted impeachment trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada, said Justice Secretary Hernando Perez had "agreed in principle" to assemble a battery of Filipino and American lawyers that would help gather and evaluate evidence against Lacson.

He said he suggested at the panel's meeting yesterday that the

LAWYERS/ A6

Palace: A 'national-security matter'

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is sworn to enforce the country's laws including those against money laundering regardless of who is involved, her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

Speaking to reporters about the alleged 18 dollar deposits abroad of Senators Panfilo Lacson and Luisa Ejercito and disgraced ex-President Joseph Estrada, Tiglao said Ms Macapagal was viewing the issue as a "national-security matter, even if the findings of the intelligence team involve two senators and the former President."

"After all," he said, "she has emphasized that the spirit of People Power II is that nobody is above the law."

Tiglao said the investigation of the alleged deposits of Lacson, his wife and the former first couple was conducted through the initiative of the police and military. But he said it would be up to the Senate to investigate the results and to the Office of the Ombudsman to determine if charges would be filed.

The President appeared to be trying to distance herself from the issue.

"I did not issue any order about that," she said in Filipino over Bombo Radyo early yesterday. "Let the investigation process take its course. That investigation is not directly under me. Let's just wait for the results."

Tiglao reiterated her stance at his afternoon briefing for reporters.

Asked if the intelligence team had clearance from Malacañang, he said: "No. She was just informed in June that such a team was being organized. She thought that it was purely an intelligence anti-crime operation."

He added that the Intelligence

PALACE/ A7

RP-MILF ceasefire deal snagged

GMA leaves today for three-day visit to Malaysia

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she planned to personally thank Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad for arranging a peace deal between Manila and Moro separatist rebels upon her arrival in Kuala Lumpur today.

On the eve of Ms Macapagal's three-day state visit to Malaysia, however, peace talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front hit a snag.

A ceasefire ceremony between the Philippine government and the MILF was postponed Monday evening, minutes before negotiators were to have initialed the pact.

MILF negotiators denied that there was a breakdown in their efforts to end decades of fighting in Mindanao that has left 120,000 people dead and tens of thousands homeless.

They said the talks would continue, possibly through the night, ahead of Ms Macapagal's visit on Tuesday.

But Al-haj Murad, chief negotiator for the MILF, told The Associated Press there was no guarantee a deal would be sealed before Ms Macapagal's visit ends Thursday.

"Because of time constraint, we cannot tell," Murad said.

The sticking points were unclear and there was no immediate word from the government side. Malacañang said no statements were planned Monday night.

MILF negotiator Ben Kadil said his side had submitted draft terms of agreement to the government team on security aspects of a ceasefire, but had not received a response in time for the 6 p.m. initialing ceremony scheduled by Malaysia's foreign ministry, which has brokered two weeks of talks.

"This is not a setback," Kadil

RP/ A15

WIDOW of one of 10 Filipino hostages beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf breaks down during the funeral rites on Monday in Lamitan, Basilan. AP

TAPUSIN NA YAN... INIP NA KAMI!

New Abu attack a setback–AFP

CALLING last week's taking of fresh hostages by the Abu Sayyaf "a temporary setback," the military said it was training more civilian militias and mulling sending in more troops to go after the bandit group.

The Abu Sayyaf beheaded ten of the 33 hostages it seized in Barangay Balobo, Lamitan, Basilan, while eight of the captives were released, two managed to escape and 13 were rescued by the military.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said yesterday the military was "reviewing whether there is a need to augment our regular forces (in Basilan)."

Speaking at a briefing at Camp Aguinaldo, Adan said AFP chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva and other top military officials met Monday to review their battle plan against the Abu Sayyaf.

The plan includes the option of sending in more regular units to augment the eight military battalions already deployed in Basilan, Adan said. At present, 5,000 ground troops are scouring the island province for the Abu Sayyaf who number in the hundreds.

Training course

For now, Adan said, six militia companies belonging to the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) are in the middle of a 90-day training course prior to being deployed in Basilan.

He said five more Cafgu companies are set to undergo training, bringing to 11 the number of companies that will support the 13 Cafgu units already in the province.

Adan described as a "limited perception" observations made that the military in Basilan was not vigorously pursuing offensive operations but only reacting to raids by the Abu Sayyaf.

"We understand the basis of this perception but I have explained that it's impossible to be in all the *sitios* in Basilan," Adan said.

The Abu Sayyaf on Aug. 3 raided Barangay Balobo, seven kilometers from the Lamitan town proper, seizing 33 residents. The area is 1.5 kilometers from a Cafgu detachment.

Attempting to explain the AFP's continuing failure to crush the Abu Sayyaf, Adan likened the military's situation to that of the police in urban centers.

"What we are saying is just like in any urban setting, the police cannot be in every corner of any city or town," he said. "The same is true in Basilan." The island province in southern Mindanao covers 1,327 square kilometers.

Adan said the military is open to a congressional inquiry into its campaign against the Abu Sayyaf.

House probe

Bukidnon Rep. Nerio Acosta was scheduled to file a resolution yesterday calling for a House investigation into the government's handling of the Abu Sayyaf problem.

"Understand that there is nothing here that the Armed Forces is trying to hide or cover up," Adan said.

Public impatience has grown with the failure of the AFP to crush the Abu Sayyaf after the bandit group seized 20 hostages from a Palawan resort last May.

The group continues to hold American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, along with the other hostages. Reports had it that the hostages and their captors were constantly on the run, subsisting on rice and salt.

The raid on Lamitan was supposedly pulled off to ease the military pressure on the bandit group.

Adan reiterated that government forces were expected to encounter the main body of the Abu Sayyaf at "anytime."

"It doesn't mean tomorrow or the next day but it could happen at anytime," he said.

2 banks summoned on 10 Erap accounts

BY DONNA CUETO

GOVERNMENT prosecutors have asked the Sandiganbayan to summon two bank presidents along with the records of 10 bank accounts related to the plunder case against former President Joseph Estrada.

The presidents of Equitable PCIBank and the International Exchange Bank were asked by the Office of the Ombudsman to appear between Aug. 13 and 17 before the Sandiganbayan to explain the accounts allegedly linked to Estrada.

Equitable PCIBank president Deogracias Vistan was asked to bring records of trust account No. 101-78056-1.

International Exchange Bank president Ramon Sy was asked to bring documents relating to nine accounts into which nine manager's checks totaling P348.437 million from Equitable-PCIBank had been deposited.

This developed as lawyers of Estrada sought once more to inhibit the Sandiganbayan's Third Division chair from hearing the plunder case.

In their motion to resolve petition to recuse, the lawyers led by Rene Saguisag said Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr. should inhibit himself from hearing the plunder case because his brother, Solomon Badoy, has been reappointed as trustee of the Local Water Utilities Administration by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Would the honorable chair had used that serendipitous development to inhibit himself," the defense's motion said.

"Regardless of the credentials of the appointee, this development can only exacerbate the unresolved perceptual problem, raising the additional issue of *delicadeza* (propriety)," it said.

The defense lawyers pointed out that it was former President Fidel Ramos who first appointed Solomon Badoy to LWUA.

"The appointment worsens the perceptual problem created by the untenable situation of two political adversaries of lead accused—Presidents Ramos and Arroyo, instrumental in ejecting him from Malacañang—to whom the honorable chair may have a reason to be grateful," the defense lawyers' motion said.

They said that this did not look good for the Sandiganbayan justice. "Recusation is indicated, more than ever, with all due respect," it said.

Imelda wants top justice out of graft case

BY DONNA CUETO

THE WIDOW of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos has asked Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena to inhibit himself from further hearing the forfeiture case against the Marcoses that the anti-graft court had earlier decided in favor of the government.

In a last-ditch effort to reverse a Sept. 19, 2000 decision of the 1st Division, Imelda Marcos is now asking Garchitorena to voluntarily inhibit himself from the case, citing his alleged bias and prejudice against the Marcoses.

Imelda cited in her motion for inhibition the decision of the 1st Division, which Garchitorena heads, to convict her in the Light Rail Transit Authority graft case.

She was later acquitted by the Supreme Court, but government lawyers have questioned the decision.

She also included in her motion a July 31, 1985 document allegedly signed by Garchitorena and his wife, Vicky—now the Presidential Management Staff chief—calling for the impeachment of then President Marcos.

The document had alleged that Marcos "permitted and even abetted" the systematic looting of the country's finances.

The motion, filed on Aug. 2, claimed that Garchitorena should inhibit himself in accordance with the Code of Judicial Conduct and Canons of Judicial Ethics.

Imelda, in a supplemental motion for reconsideration filed two weeks ago, asked the 1st Division to reverse its Sept. 19, 2000 ruling directing the transfer of the Marcos assets, including the frozen $630 million in Marcos Swiss deposits, to the government for proper disposition.

She raised as new grounds the matter of prescription, and a one-year bar before general elections in the filing of criminal cases.

She also claimed that the forfeiture petition filed by former solicitor general Francisco Chavez on Dec. 17, 1991, should have been dismissed for "improperly pleading" the late dictator who was already dead at the time.

Marcos died on Sept. 28, 1999 in Hawaii.

"Therefore, the petition should have been filed against his estate and not against him," the motion said.

RP going bananas

BY C. BALANA

THE GOVERNMENT has asked Australia to "fast-track" the entry of Philippine bananas there as provided for under a bilateral agreement.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor conveyed the government's wish during a courtesy call on him by an Australian biosecurity team which inspected banana farms in Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Bukidnon and Cotabato.

The inspection will be completed on Aug. 12.

The team, led by Dr. Sharan Singh, inspected banana plantations and processing facilities in the country to find out quarantine systems being employed in the country prior to giving its recommendation to the Australian Department of Agriculture.

Australia is now working on the timetable to allow the entry of Philippine bananas.

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Senate can't wait, Drilon tells minority

By Christine Avendaño

BECAUSE the Senate needs to start work right away, including investigating the alleged hidden wealth of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the majority will finish organizing today the 26 committees that it will chair, Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday.

Only the reorganization of the 11 committees whose chairmanships have been offered to, and have yet to be accepted by, the minority would be put off, Drilon said.

The minority yesterday decided to defer action yet again on the offer until next week.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said they would wait for Sen. Blas Ople and Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel to return from their foreign trips.

Drilon said the inquiry into the Lacson case has been referred to the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs as well as the blue ribbon committee.

"That is why we must organize the committees already by today at the latest, so we can start working," Drilon told reporters.

The chairmanships of the two committees have been offered to majority coalition senators Robert Barbers and Joker Arroyo.

Drilon and Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said the majority coalition has agreed to the minority's request for an additional committee, offering them the committee on environment and natural resources.

The Senate Minority had asked for one more committee to chair as it has 11 members.

Sen. Ramon Revilla, who was earlier nominated to chair the environment committee, has already agreed to give up the committee that he said he was "holding in trust" for his son-in-law, Sen. Robert Jaworski, who is from the minority, Legarda said.

Revilla already chairs the committees on public works and labor.

Drilon said it would be up to the minority to decide who should head the committee, but said that Jaworski could very well chair it as he had held the post in the last Congress.

He also said it was up to the minority whether to give Pimentel a committee to chair.

The majority coalition last week said that as one of the three top officers of the Senate, Pimentel was not eligible to chair a committee.

But it noted that legislative history and Senate tradition allowed the Senate President pro tempore and Senate majority leader to hold committee chairmanships.

But Legarda said that Senate rules did not explicitly state that the Senate minority leader could not hold a committee chairmanship, thus clearing the way for Pimentel's heading a committee.

Don't go after SSS workers, gov't told

MILITANT labor groups yesterday cautioned the government against going hard on the 4,000 employees of the Social Security System who joined the three-day strike that ousted SSS president Vitaliano Nañagas, saying the workers' protest actions were justified.

Crispin Beltran, chair Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), said Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, and Civil Service Commission chair Karina David should be warned against laying down any sanctions or penalties against the employees who joined the strike.

₱27 pay hike an insult–KMU

"WORKERS don't need alms."

With that the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) scored the Department of Labor and Employment over a report that said workers in Metro Manila may not get more than a P27 pay hike based on the records of wage increases the past 10 years.

"This is a pathetic 50 centavos higher than the wage hike they grudgingly gave last year," KMU chair Crispin Beltran said yesterday. "They're giving out alms, not pay hikes."

Beltran was reacting to a statement by Assistant Labor Secretary Reydeluz Conferido that data from 1990 to 2000 showed that wage hikes were always under P27, or not more than 19 percent of the prevailing minimum wage.

"This insult to workers and their families gives us all the more reason to demand the abolition of the wage boards," Beltran said.

Beltran said the regional wage boards, which were created in 1992 to fix wages by region, not only drained the public budget but ensured that workers' wages "never leave the floor."

The National Capital Region wage board in November 2000 granted a P26.50 increase for workers in Metro Manila, raising the minimum wage to P250. The amount was less than half the P75.50 wage hike sought by the Labor Solidarity Movement at the time.

The LSM recently filed a petition for a P77 increase in the minimum wage for workers in Metro Manila. The LSM is composed of the moderate Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, the Labor Advisory Consultative Council and the Alliance of Progressive Labor.

Gerald Lacuarta

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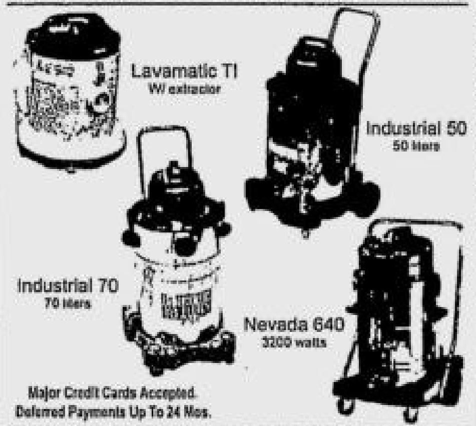

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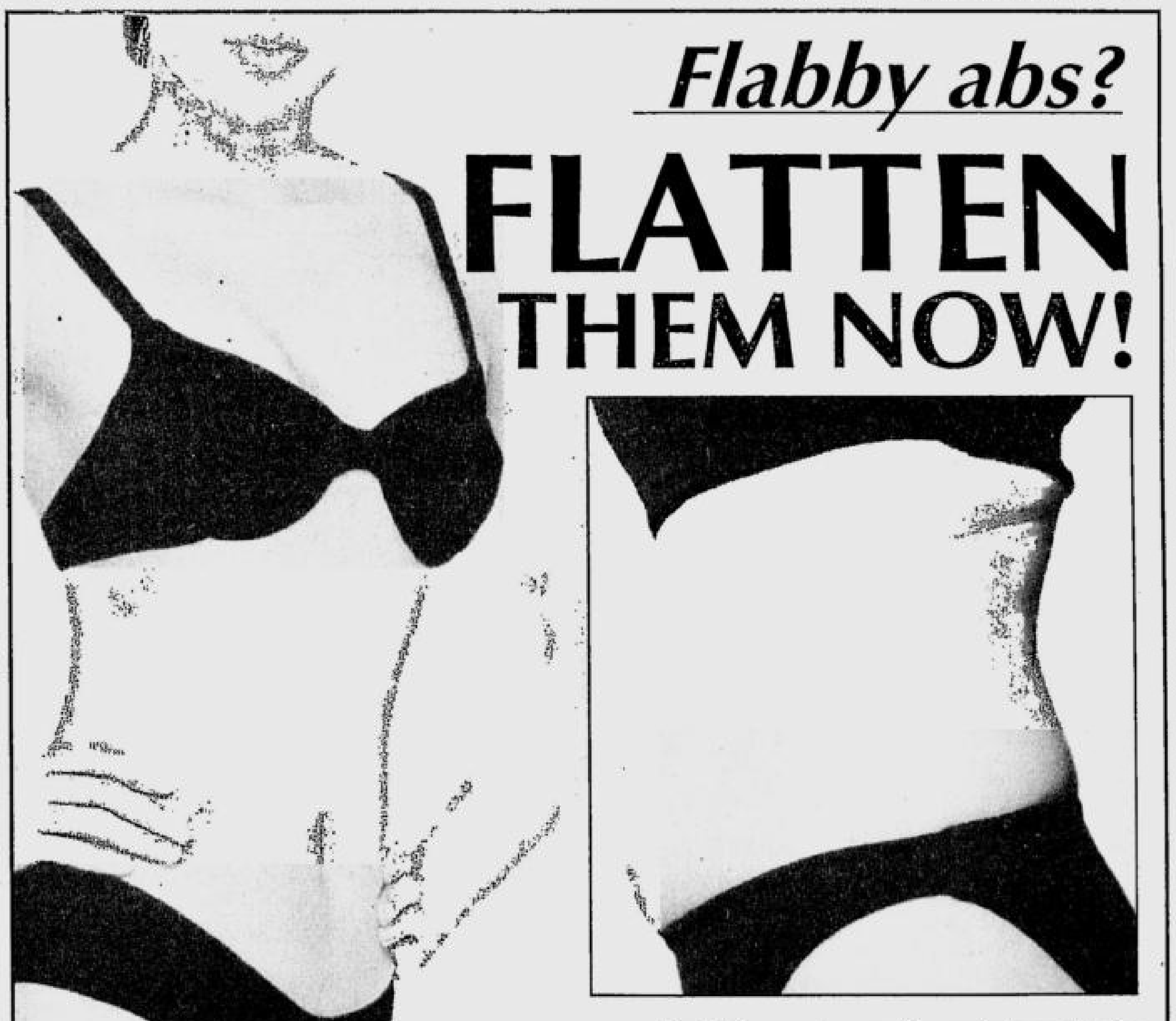

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More cons freed on fake papers

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE JUSTICE department has discovered that another 25 inmates have been released using fake papers, confirming reports that a syndicate is thriving within the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor).

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez has ordered a nationwide inventory of all prisoners serving sentences with the BuCor.

He also ordered a "full-blown" investigation to identify BuCor and jail officials who might be behind the syndicate.

Perez earlier pointed to a possible syndicate operation when he reported that six inmates had been released from the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa, and seven from the Davao Penal Colony using forged documents.

He has instructed National Bureau of Investigation director Reynaldo Wycoco to conduct a speedy probe of the scam.

"All detention centers are now being investigated. We are checking every center (to find out why) these prisoners were released," he said.

At a press briefing yesterday, Perez said the 25 inmates had been illegally released from the Iwahig penal and farm colony in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

"We have an initial report from Puerto Princesa City about certain prisoners who were released prematurely from Iwahig. They were released between September 1999 and June 2000," Perez said.

He said the names of five of the inmates have been submitted to his office, but the identities of the other 20 have yet to be divulged by BuCor officials.

Two of the three inmates who were illegally released from the NBP have been re-arrested.

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Heed Gloria call for moratorium, opposition asked

A HOUSE leader has asked the opposition to heed the call of President Macapagal-Arroyo for a one-year moratorium on politicking to give way to solutions to the nation's urgent problems.

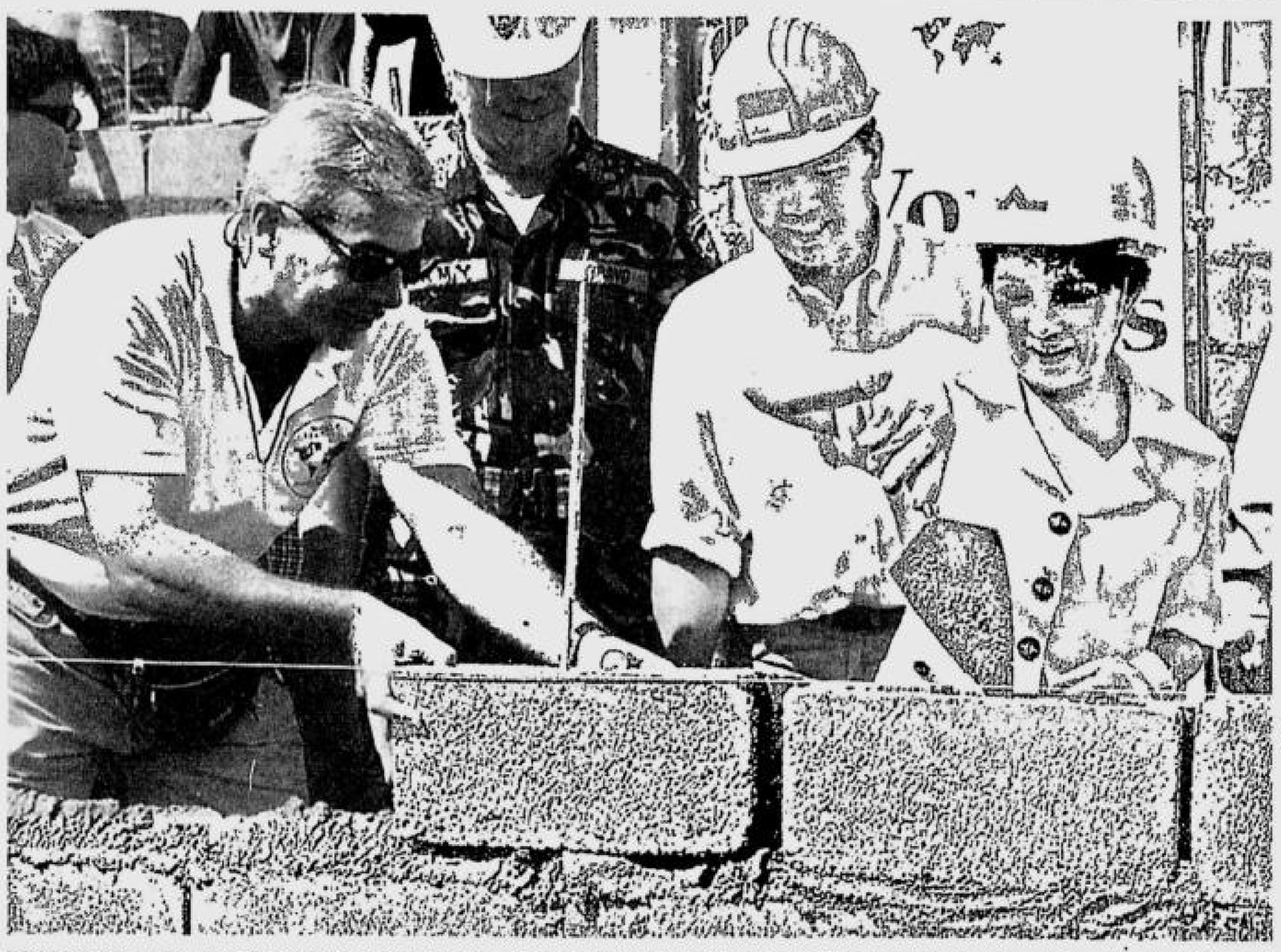
But Surigao Rep. Prospero Pichay said Congress should still do its duty to fiscalize the Executive branch as long as this is not for short-term political gains and is done constructively with the people's interests at heart.

In a press statement, Pichay, chair of the House committee of national defense, said blatantly-political issues like the alleged bribery scandal involving First Gentleman Mike Arroyo were a deterrence to effective governance.

He said Arroyo was when those linking him to the controversy admitted they had relied only on text messages and other forms of hearsay.

In her state of the nation address last week, the President called for a one-year moratorium on politics, a call heeded by the majority and some members of the opposition.

Pichay observed that if politics could be set aside, then the Executive would now be able to work unimpeded to solve urgent concerns like reining in the budget deficit and curbing inflation, improving the delivery of basic services, and boosting the purchasing power of Filipinos in the face of rising oil price and the depreciating peso.



BRICK BY BRICK. President Macapagal-Arroyo, assisted by Habitat official Fernando Zobel de Ayala and housing chair Michael Defensor, helps build a home in Rizal.

VAL HANDUMON

Gloria gives land to QC poor

By Cynthia D. Balana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday awarded land titles owned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to residents of Quezon City.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said the President gave away 1,357 residential lots in Barangay Commonwealth in Quezon City before proceeding to the "World Leaders' Build" project of the Habitat for Humanity Foundations in Rizal.

The President was assisted by Alvarez, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) chair Michael Defensor, and Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr.

Alvarez, whose department is responsible for lot surveys and its subsequent approval for disposition, vowed that more alienable and disposal lands for the poor will be awarded by the government in a bid to create a "belt of houses" in Metro Manila.

"While we seek to decongest the metropolis, it is the vision of this administration to create a belt of houses in the surrounding areas of Metro Manila, providing the very basic housing necessity for the poor," he said.

Alvarez said that the Certificates of Land Titles awarded by the President will benefit the members of the Homeowners Association of Barangay Commonwealth.

This included the Samahang Magkakapitbahay ng Sto. Niño, Magtulungan Homeowners Association, Don Fabian Homeowners Association, SAMAKAPA Homeowners Association Inc., and Isang Diwa Homeowners Association, all located in Barangay Commonwealth.

In Pinugay, Rizal, the President lent a hand in the construction of a poor family's house during the inauguration of the World Leaders' Build, a worldwide event organized by Habitat for Humanity International to build houses for the needy.

Ms Macapagal helped put up a concrete partition wall for a housing unit for "home partners" Leopoldo and Medina Obong.

Leopoldo, a 38-year-old construction worker, said he and his wife and their four children lost their house in Cogeo, Rizal during a flash flood two years ago.

He said he was overwhelmed by the fact that the President had a hand in the building of his house.

Among those who took part in the event were House and Urban Development Coordinating Council chairman Michael Defensor, Fernando Zobel de Ayala who heads the National Steering Committee for World Leaders Build, and Makati Business Club president Guillermo Luz.

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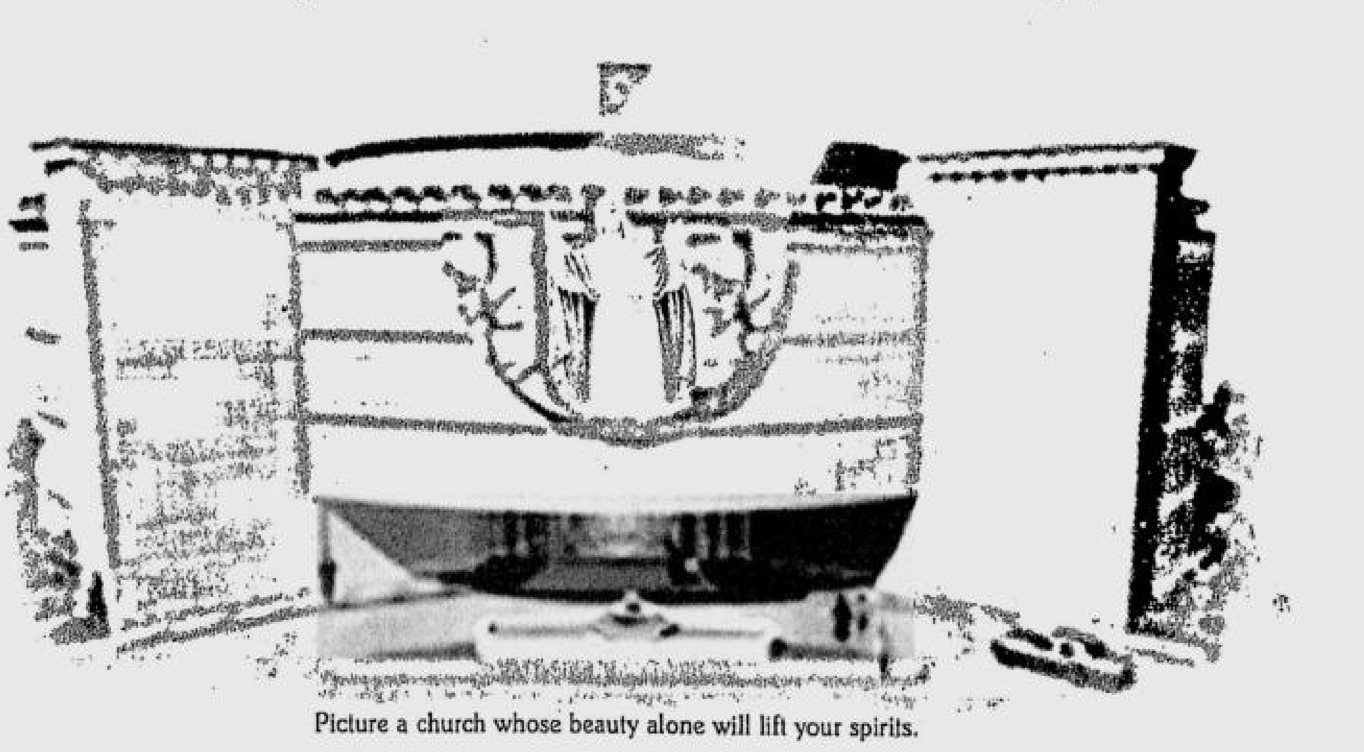

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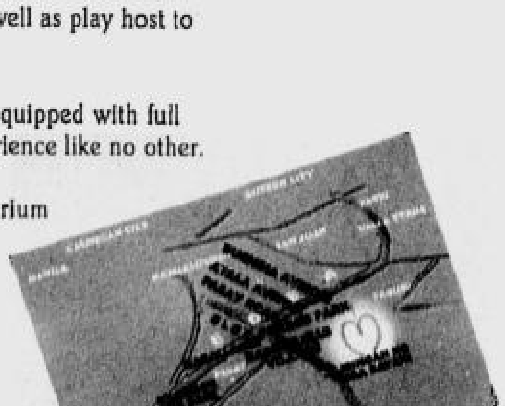

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Haydee now camera-shy

BY BLANCHE RIVERA

THE FEISTY lawyer has turned camera-shy.

Fearing they could be used in the fraudulent gold bar business prevalent in the country, newly installed Presidential Commission on Good Government chair Haydee Yorac has banned visitors from taking snapshots of her at her PCGG office.

Yorac, who doubts the existence of the incredible volume of alleged Marcos gold, said she has turned down requests for photo-ops because these might legitimize monkey business involving gold recovery.

Yorac said she has also received propositions to invest in the recovery of gold bars even before she assumed the top post of the anti-Marcos agency but trashed all of the dubious offers.

"That's why I'm wary of those who want to take pictures here. They could go around and say, 'look, we're working with the PCGG on this," Yorac told the INQUIRER in an interview.

"There are so many scum in this world, and there are so many fools in this world. If you uncover something like that, you should always verify," she added.

She said many visitors, whom she did not know, had come to the PCGG to show her certificates of alleged Marcos gold stashed in the provinces.

The visitors would usually ask to have their picture taken with her for posterity, but she politely declined out of caution amid reports on Marcos gold.

Initial findings by the PCGG showed that certificates of alleged Marcos gold deposited in Switzerland under the name of North Korean leader Kim Il-sung were fake.

The PCGG said the most recent report of 940 tons of Marcos gold in the Union Bank of Switzerland could be among the fake certificates circulating since the early years of the PCGG.

Another certificate under the name of Kim Il-sung, had earlier surfaced, purportedly to show that Marcos had $427 billion worth of gold bars in the National Bank of Canada. This was proven to be fictitious.

They formed part of the collection of certificates of Melba Aganon, which the US District Court in Chicago ruled to be mere "forgeries and fantasies."

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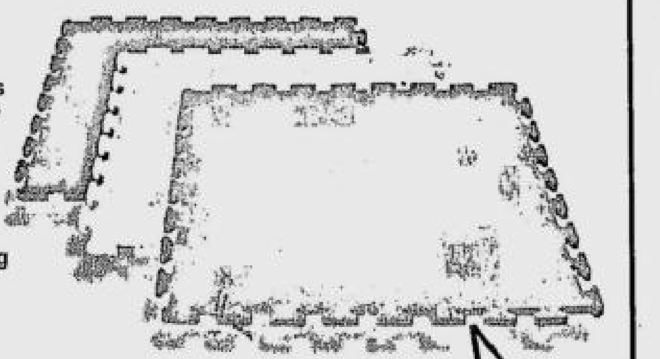

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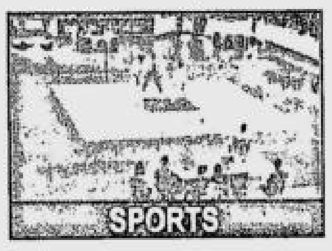

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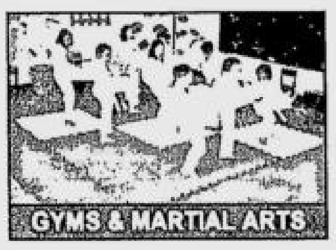

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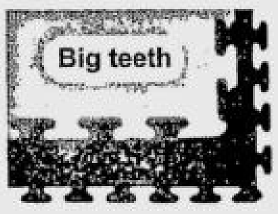

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4	P 4,500.00 to P 4,999.99	4,500.00	112.50	56.25	56.25	
5	P 5,000.00 to P 5,499.99	5,000.00	125.00	62.50	62.50	
6	P 5,500.00 to P 5,999.99	5,500.00	137.50	68.75	68.75	
7	P 6,000.00 to P 6,499.99	6,000.00	150.00	75.00	75.00	
8	P 6,500.00 to P 6,999.99	6,500.00	162.50	81.25	81.25	
9	P 7,000.00 to P 7,499.99	7,000.00	175.00	87.50	87.50	
10	P 7,500.00 to P 7,999.99	7,500.00	187.50	93.75	93.75	
11	P 8,000.00 to P 8,499.99	8,000.00	200.00	100.00	100.00	Effective January 1, 2002
12	P 8,500.00 to P 8,999.99	8,500.00	212.50	106.25	106.25	
13	P 9,000.00 to P 9,499.99	9,000.00	225.00	112.50	112.50	
14	P 9,500.00 to P 9,999.99	9,500.00	237.50	118.75	118.75	
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EXCERPTS

From Sen. Panfilo Lacson's 17-page privilege speech, his first as a sitting senator to "defend my honor and dignity in the eyes of my peers—and, hopefully in your hearts." Because "I have been demonized without notice."

Col. Victor Corpus, at left, chief of the Intelligence Service of the AFP with former PNP intelligence chief and Lacson archrival, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya.

> "What we have now is a chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who by his own stupidity becomes a threat to national security. He has become so gullible and this is dangerous."

INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo

> Certainly, Mr. Tulfo and his motivators have no qualms about lying . . . A verified extortionist masquerading as a journalist . . . He will drop everything for money.

Accusers Mary Ong alias Rosebud

Angelo Mawanay alias Ador

> Ador must be hallucinating ... My accusers have finally become mad.

'They're stupid; accounts false'

(From page A1)

ately from the Senate," she said, as she challenged Corpus to either prove his charges or resign from his post.

Numbers

Lacson said the Citibank office in Hong Kong told him that account numbers there are "always prefixed by numbers 006." The Hong Kong accounts that Corpus listed as allegedly belonging to Lacson and/or Estrada begin with "06," "05," "04" and "02."

A Jeanette Yu of Citibank Hong Kong also told Lacson that the bank's account numbers there have 11 and 14 digits. The ones in Corpus' list contain 16 digits. Lacson said he was awaiting certification from the bank in Hong Kong confirming this.

In the United States, however, there are 16-digit Citibank account numbers, one international banker pointed out, and clients of banks can create their own account numbers if they conform with the bank's numbering system *(See story on Page A1).*

Lacson also found it odd that the "routing numbers or location codes" of the Citibank branches in Canada, California and New York are all "0800," saying that the first three digits of an account number indicate the location of the branch.

"How could the account numbers in all but one bank end in 000?" he asked.

"The fabricators and liars of this administration did not conduct even a little research on the characteristics of bank account numbers," Lacson said, calling Corpus' allegation a "big, big lie."

He said Corpus may have "dreamed about all these account numbers."

In the interpellation with Majority Floor Leader Loren Legarda, Lacson said the "Hong Kong bank accounts are non-existent."

"Saksi," a GMA-7 news program, reported that Citibank Hong Kong denied the existence of Lacson's supposed account in that branch. In a statement faxed to the show, Penny Shone, regional corporate affairs director of Citibank, said that upon verification of their records, there were "no accounts with these names and numbers in Hong Kong."

Broken

Lacson asked his accusers to bring the matter to court, saying that the allegations had left him "broken."

"I will go straight to jail without trial if my detractors can present verified information that would show that I have $700M or $200M in any bank in the world. If there is none, I ask that they go straight to hell!" he said in his speech.

"The truth is, I am not maintaining accounts in any of the banks in Hong Kong, Canada and the US, or anywhere in the world except the Philippines, much less in the amounts as staggering as what was published in one newspaper over the weekend," he said, referring to INQUIRER reports on the joint AFP-PNP intelligence mission.

"I do not maintain a joint account with anyone in the same foreign banks mentioned," Lacson added.

He reiterated that he requested US authorities "in the interest of all concerned" as early as the first week of June 2001 to act expeditiously on a request from the Philippine justice department, which sought to confirm money-laundering allegations against him.

He blasted Corpus, saying, "What we have now is a chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who, by his own stupidity becomes a threat to national security. He has become so gullible and this is dangerous."

'Modest house'

Responding to the intelligence team's claims that he owned several houses in California, Lacson said he "used to own a modest house in San Diego, California in 1996, which I sold when I could not cope with the monthly amortization." Later, he said he sold the house on June 30, 1999.

The intelligence team also said he had sold a house in the area.

He opted not to comment on the real estate documents provided by the intelligence team on the transaction. A photo of the papers was published in the INQUIRER.

He also denied owning a townhouse at 14300 Terra Bella in Panorama City, but said he knows its owner, Robert Co. The intelligence team had said that Co was a neighbor of Lacson's in the gated community.

"As to the business interests, a forwarding company based in Los Angeles, California, was put up with some friends, but has not taken off to date," he said.

He later said that it was his wife Alice who put up the company along with a certain Estrella Dimaculangan and Robert Co.

He said the INQUIRER report "is not correct in the sense that I am not personally involved in that newly put-up company." The report in fact quoted an investigator as saying that Alice Lacson had set up two import/export and freight services firms in Beverly Hills with Chinese-Filipino businessman Co.

Lacson also totally denied other charges leveled against him by INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo, and ex-civilian agents of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, Angelo Mawanay, aka "Ador," and Mary Ong, alias "Rosebud."

He described Tulfo as a "verified extortionist masquerading as a journalist," adding that the columnist "will drop everything for money."

Lacson said he was "willing to go to hell" if proven guilty, but if proven innocent, he said his accusers "should give the devil their everlasting company."

Lawyers ask Lacson to go on leave; Left, Church seek probe

(From page A1)

services of lawyers belonging to the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights and the American Civil Liberties Union be tapped.

Lawyers of ex-intelligence agent Angelo "Ador" Mawanay said they would file a formal complaint before the Office of the Ombudsman to seek a formal investigation of the 18 savings, checking and time-deposit accounts abroad that Lacson, his wife Alice, Estrada and his wife Sen. Luisa Ejercito were allegedly holding.

The lawyers—Leonard de Vera, Argee Guevarra, Nick Conti and Jose A. Grapilon—challenged Lacson to waive his rights under the bank secrecy law.

They also called on Lacson and Ejercito to take a leave from the Senate to spare the chamber further controversy.

"Besides, they (Lacson and Ejercito) would be inutile in the Senate because this investigation will render their services almost impossible," Guevarra told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Capulong said the American lawyers would mainly be asked to coordinate with authorities in the United States, Canada and Hong Kong in the release of documents that could prove that Lacson was maintaining the dollar accounts.

De Vera said Sunday that "it would not be too hard" to prosecute Lacson for supposed money laundering.

He said prosecutors just had to prove the existence of one of the 18 accounts supposedly maintained by the senator individually or jointly with his wife or Estrada.

Ombudsman

In the House, Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez called on the Ombudsman to look into the matter.

Gonzalez said that under Republic Act 6770, the Ombudsman could initiate its own investigation of any issue "even if it is based on an anonymous complaint."

"What more this case, which is sufficiently detailed?" said Gonzalez, a former *tanodbayan.*

According to Gonzalez, the House cannot conduct an investigation of the alleged illegal activities of Lacson and Ejercito because "inter-parliamentary courtesy prohibits us from doing so."

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II also said as much.

"While nothing prevents us from investigating (Lacson), we cannot summon a member of the Senate and vice versa," he said, adding that at the most, House members could only deliver privilege speeches demanding a probe "by the Senate."

Should the allegations against the senator be elevated to and acted upon by the Ombudsman, there is still no certainty that the office can implement a suspension order on Lacson, Gonzales II said.

He said that for such an order to be imposed on a senator or a congressman, a "two-thirds vote" of the members of either chamber was required.

Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers said that should an investigation by the Senate or the Ombudsman be found "insufficient," he would file a resolution initiating a House probe.

"This will be in aid of legislation, particularly now that we are trying to strengthen our laws on money laundering," he said.

Barbers said that under such a probe, Lacson and Ejercito would not be summoned.

He said it would not "seek to put the blame on anybody but would try to uncover the schemes undertaken to circumvent our laws on money laundering."

"We will summon the accusers or those who were able to unearth this anomaly," he said.

Western Samar Rep. Antonio Nachura echoed the view that Lacson should take a leave of absence if the Senate embarked on an investigation.

"I think his fellow senators will give him the same advice. It's really up to him," Nachura said.

'RP's Montesinos'

Robert S. de Castro, secretary general of the Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR), said the results of intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus' investigation should be used as initial evidence in the immediate filing of criminal charges against Lacson and company.

"We strongly believe that the huge bank deposits were acquired from various illegal activities during the heyday of Estrada as (Presidential Anti-Crime Commission) chief and later as President of the republic," De Castro said in a statement.

He added: "General Lacson is the Montesinos of the Philippines who has links to various criminal syndicates, allegedly masterminded various criminal activities, and is knowledgeable of Estrada's other illegal activities."

Montesinos is a former top aide of ousted Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori.

"It is also not enough for government authorities to investigate and press charges against Lacson" on the reported money laundering, De Castro said.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo should also order the investigation of earlier serious allegations against Lacson, including those concerning the kidnapping for ransom of Chinese-Filipinos, the abduction and murder of PR man Bubby Dacer, and the disappearance of casino employee Edgar Bentain and PCPR leader Fr. Rudy Romano.

In another statement, Dani Beltran, secretary general of the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace, said the money-laundering exposé "should pave the way for Lacson's arrest and prosecution."

He said that with the earlier allegations of summary executions and human rights violations from victims as well as witnesses and former accomplices, "Lacson is undeniably the most dangerous plunderer at large."

"This bombshell only ascertains what we have been saying all along—the magnitude of accusations against Lacson tremendously transcends those of common hoodlums in uniform," Beltran said, adding:

"We urge Lacson's honorable colleagues in the Senate not to allow the august chamber to metamorphose into his sanctuary. He does not belong there."

'Guns of August'

Rodolfo Sambajon, chair of the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya, urged Lacson's supposed victims to come out and train their "Guns of August" on the senator.

"The fight against Lacson is a battle against Marcos leftovers and pro-Estrada stooges. It is high time one of the key orchestrators of martial law and the corrupt and tyrant regime of Estrada was punished," Sambajon said.

Dante Jimenez, chair and president of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, also said Lacson should take a leave of absence.

"He will be too busy defending himself from the accusations and clearing his name that he will not be an effective lawmaker," Jimenez said in a phone interview.

Jimenez said Lacson's continued presence in the Senate "could further damage the (chamber) as an institution."

Jimenez said he and other members of civil society would meet shortly to formulate a "united position" against Lacson.

He hinted of the formation of a "Lacson Resign Movement" similar to that which spearheaded massive protest actions against then President Estrada.

Transparency

At the Clark Special Economic Zone, Miguel Varela, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the allegations of money laundering against Lacson and Estrada were a signal to the country's business community that the Macapagal administration was "transparent."

"Anybody can come out and charge anybody. Now the rule of law is in place," Varela told the INQUIRER after addressing participants of the North Philippines Business Forum at the Fontana Leisure Park yesterday.

Varela also said the "serious accusations" must be investigated and. if evidence warranted, taken to court. ***Reports from Christian V. Esguerra, Andrea Trinidad-Echavez, Rocky Nazareno, Volt Contreras, Norman Bordadora and Jerome Aning in Manila; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Minority senators back Ping

(From page A1)

rules that compels the embattled senator to go on leave pending an investigation, following calls made by some groups.

"It is a matter for Sen. Lacson to decide," Drilon said.

Many questions

"He was quite sad and angry about the allegations," Angara noted of Lacson's reaction.

Angara said there were many questions that were raised by the opposition in a caucus yesterday, including why the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) was tasked to investigate Lacson when the investigating body should have been the police or the National Bureau of Investigation.

He described this move as "extraordinary" and "unusual."

Earlier, it was reported that Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza Jr. of the PNP Intelligence Group had requested Corpus' participation and help in investigating Lacson.

But Angara also questioned the propriety of the investigation, which was approved by the Palace. Corpus had said that Malacañang gave the investigating team a P3-million budget for its month-long mission in San Francisco.

"Why is it that the Office of the President who financed the investigation? Does that mean now that the Office of the President can finance group of investigators to go against any political personality, especially the opposition personality in this country?" Angara said.

"And if that's the case, this seemed to be the case, then no one is safe in this country. No opposition, whether political or otherwise is safe because Malacañang can unleash all investigative teams of the country against anyone."

Day in court

Sen. Loren Legarda, on the other hand, said Lacson should be given his day in court and due process.

Legarda rejected opposition legislators' suggestions that the report might be a bid by the Macapagal administration to divert attention from a bribery case against First Gentleman Mike Arroyo. The allegations against Arroyo fizzled out when most of the information was admitted to be either hearsay or the product of text messages.

Osmeña said the Senate investigation would have to look at the numbers in the alleged bank deposits, which Corpus said totaled P728.5 million (around P39 billion), "to ascertain if they are within the realm of possibility."

But Osmeña expressed reservation about Corpus' report because the United States has stringent laws against money laundering.

The Senate, he said, has to dig deeper as "this might be a part of a bigger picture."

Osmeña asked whether Corpus' history as a Philippine Military Academy instructor turned communist rebel turned military officer had something to do with the accusations against Lacson.

The charges, Osmeña claimed, could point to "the reemergence . . . of the Left in this country"

He also said another angle worth looking into is the possibility that the charges against Lacson could be a "demolition job" on the part of Lakas-NUCD and former President Fidel Ramos, since Lacson is allegedly "feared by them as the standard bearer" of the opposition in the 2004 presidential election.

Osmeña said he believes that the "Ramos faction" in the administration party Lakas is also trying to "undermine" President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I am not passing judgment but there is more than meets the eye," Osmeña said.

Impartiality

Senate President Franklin Drilon reiterated that Sen. Ramon Revilla's resolution calling for an investigation would likely be referred to the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee or the Ethics Committee.

However, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III believes that the Senate is not the right body to investigate Lacson.

He said that since Lacson is their colleague, the Department of Justice should conduct any future probe to ensure impartiality.

Lito Banayo, Lacson's former campaign manager, described the charges as "incredible."

Banayo said he could not believe that Lacson and Estrada were able to open a joint bank account, as he could not remember any instance that the two went to the United States at the same time.

Banayo, who also once served as political adviser of the deposed president, said that as far as he knew of American banking laws, the depositors of a joint account would have to be both present when they open the account.

Banayo said it was also unlikely that Lacson was able to make such huge bank deposits without running alerting the US government to a possible violation of the country's stringent anti-money laundering and antiracketeering laws.

Palace: A 'national security matter'

(From page A1)

Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) led by Col. Victor Corpus had funded the operation.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said Corpus had the full backing of the government in the investigation.

"This is a government undertaking," Adan said. "At this point, what we can say is that the Isafp was tapped by higher authorities to conduct this investigation."

He refused to provide details but said that Corpus was reporting to the President on the "sensitive" information so far gathered against Lacson and company.

'Natural'

Commenting on Lacson's privilege speech yesterday at the Senate, Corpus said it was "natural" for the senator to deny the intelligence team's findings. *(See story on Page A1.)*

"I want him to make his denial while undergoing a polygraph test so we will know who is telling truth," Corpus told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Corpus said the concerned banks might have received instructions from Lacson to deny the existence of the deposits.

"It is natural for them to cover up. A certification of the deposits will cause their downfall," he said, adding:

"I am glad that Lacson has finally admitted that he indeed opened and maintained an account in the United States."

Corpus also said that "as far as the result of our investigation and of the continuing investigation is concerned, it is now up to the Senate to determine who is telling the truth."

He said the Senate would be the proper forum for his testimony, but noted that some portions would have to be heard in executive session.

Tiglao said no politics was involved in the intelligence team's findings.

He said the team was formed after members of the Philippine National Police's Intelligence Group and of the Isafp received information that Canadian authorities had apprehended a known Lacson aide trying to smuggle in $1 million.

According to Tiglao, informants of the intelligence groups said this was merely the "tip of the iceberg" of Lacson's overseas bank accounts.

Tiglao said members of the team agreed that Corpus should head it.

"Colonel Corpus' integrity is impeccable," he said. "The Isafp is supervised by the professional AFP hierarchy, which in turn reports to the secretary of national defense."

He added that the President was merely informed of the team's progress.

Director General Leandro Mendoza, PNP chief, said police intelligence agents were conducting a separate probe into the assets that Lacson might have illegally acquired in the country.

"This has been going on for more than a month now. This is actually an effort of the intelligence community not only of the PNP but the National Bureau of Investigation and the AFP."

Asked if the PNP would arrest Lacson if necessary, Mendoza said: "Anytime. We arrested the ex-President (Estrada). There is no reason why we can't arrest anybody."

National security

Tiglao said that because of initial allegations that Lacson's alleged dollar deposits were huge and could be drug-related, the issue was being treated as a national security concern.

"The huge amounts of money involved . . . mean that foreign exchange is being siphoned off, which would have an impact on our dollar reserves," he said.

"Secondly, if there were huge amounts, there was a tip, an allegation, that these could be drug-related. And the drug problem in the country has been considered a national security concern," he said.

Tiglao said, however, that there were as yet no government-to-government talks between the United States and the Philippines.

He said the matter was still at the level of the Isafp and its unnamed US counterpart.

Asked what would happen to the money or other assets to be discovered, Tiglao said: "That's still being evaluated. If it is proven to be laundered money, there would have to be consultations on the US money-laundering laws. On the other hand, there could be forfeiture cases. That would still have to be evaluated by the Ombudsman." *With reports from Carlito Pablo, Alcuin Papa and Christine Herrera*

Saguisag says he'll quit if...

By Donna S. Cueto

RENE Saguisag will quit as defense counsel of former President Joseph Estrada in the criminal cases he is facing at the Sandiganbayan if his alleged dollar deposits turn out to be real.

"Yes, I will resign if those accounts are proven to be true," the former senator told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He said his position was clear even at the start of his role as a member of Estrada's defense team.

But Saguisag aired the belief that there was no truth to the alleged deposits and that the reports were just part of government propaganda.

He also demanded to know why President Macapagal-Arroyo would allot P3 million to finance the intelligence mission to the United States which he described as a "huge junket."

Saguisag said the Macapagal administration's real target was a "potential rival" in the 2004 presidential election, referring to Lacson.

He said the same thing had happened with Sen. Vicente Sotto III, who, he said, became the subject of a black propaganda campaign when he surfaced as a possible vice-presidential candidate and potential rival of then Senator Macapagal-Arroyo.

Asked if the alleged dollar accounts could be used by the government to bolster its plunder case against the Estrada, Saguisag said: "I doubt it."

He and former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas said the alleged accounts, which Estrada had denied, could not be part of the plunder case now pending before the Ombudsman.

The two men said the allegations were not true and were not part of the original information.

Estrada is facing at least three cases in the Sandiganbayan involving plunder, perjury and graft.

A fourth case, involving the illegal use of alias, has been remanded to the Ombudsman for preliminary investigation.

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Is it possible? Yes, say Camacho, other int'l bankers

(From page A1)

information came mostly from the newspapers.

An international banking expert also debunked several claims made by Lacson during his privilege speech yesterday that banking rules in the US made it impossible for him to make such big deposits.

The expert, whose identify was withheld, said Lacson's claim that a social security number was necessary to open a bank account in the US was "baloney."

"All you need is a US address and some sort of an identification, like a passport or a drivers license and you can open an account in one day," he said. "In a week you can have a checking account and in a month you can have a credit card."

He said the more than $750 million that Lacson is alleged to have in several bank accounts in the US, Canada and Hong Kong is a small amount within the context of US money laundering and racketeering.

"Drug traffickers move billions of dollars through the US banking system without being detected," he said.

"Moving cash is hard, but you can bring in a check for any amount without being detected," he said. "And you can transfer millions of dollars easily, even in the Internet although that's not possible in the Philippines."

He also debunked claims by Lacson that it was not possible to have the same number prefix or routing numbers for different banks, accounts and cities in the US. He said any bank client could create or customize his own account number so long as it conforms with the bank's numbering system.

A former executive of Citibank in Manila said the account numbers in the bank are normally computer generated and found it strange that different accounts in different branches had similar routing numbers.

"Depending on the bank's configuration or setup, different branches normally have different routing numbers," he said.

Other bankers said the laundering trail revealed by military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus is possible.

"Anything is really possible when you have electronic banking around," said Leonilo Coronel, executive director of the Bankers Association of the Philippines. In the digital age, the transfer of money from one account to the other could be done electronically.

Isidro Alcantara, president of Philippine Bank of Communications shares Coronel's views. But both bankers cautioned that while the laundering claims are possible, the veracity of Corpus' claims has to be verified.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the Philippine government has no jurisdiction over the alleged money laundering by Lacson. He said the issue was definitely out of the BSP's hands.

A former Citibank official, Buenaventura said the foreign banks tagged in the Lacson laundering case has to issue a confirmation whether or not the numbered accounts exist.

Aside from Citibank, Lacson had reportedly maintained accounts containing hundreds of millions of dollars in the Bank of America and Wells Fargo Bank. The latter had reportedly merged with another foreign bank.

"But the government has to work with US authorities because they have their own rules on money laundering," said the finance secretary.

Citibank Hong Kong had denied the existence of any of the accounts said to belong to Lacson. As of presstime, Citibank US still has to open and issue a confirmation on the accounts.

Buenaventura said Citibank has to come up with a confirmation or denial to clear its name. The foreign bank, he said, was subject to strict money laundering laws in the US where suspicious accounts had to be reported to authorities.

The BSP chief took advantage of the issue to push for the speedy passage of an anti-money laundering law in the country. Lacson, ironically, had come up with his own bill against money laundering.

The Philippines was given by the Financial Action Task Force until September 30 to pass a legislation against money laundering so the country would be taken out of the watchlist of "uncooperative" nations with regard to anti-money laundering programs.

The central bank chief noted that local banks and businesses would be subjected to rigid scrutiny, which can make transactions more expensive and the process much longer, if the country fails to pass an anti-laundering law on or before Sept. 30.

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3. This offer is valid in the Greater Metro Manila Area as well as those covered by BPI Family Bank Business Centers.
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Php 2M to 2,999,999.99	Bedroom Set
Php 3M to 3,999,999.99	Dining Set
Php 4M to 4,999,999.99	Living Room Set
Php 5M and above	TV 50.8 cm (20") with VCD Player

5. Claim Certificates will be released together with the loan documents after EACH booking. No accumulation of loan amounts from multiple bookings will be allowed.
6. Gifts can be claimed at designated redemption centers.
7. Redemption period is from April 30 to October 31, 2001. Gifts not claimed after the last redemption day will be forfeited in favor of BPI Family Bank with prior DTI approval.
8. Should the client require delivery of appliances/furniture, delivery fees will be charged to the client's account.
9. In case client's gift items are temporarily out of stock, client will be advised by the redemption center as to when specific item will be available or client may choose another item of equivalent value.
10. This offer cannot be combined with other on-going offers of BPI/BPI Family Bank.
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12. In the event of lost claim certificate(s), rewards will be forfeited in favor of BPI Family Bank.
13. Prizes are neither transferable nor convertible to cash.
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OPINION

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Founding Chairman

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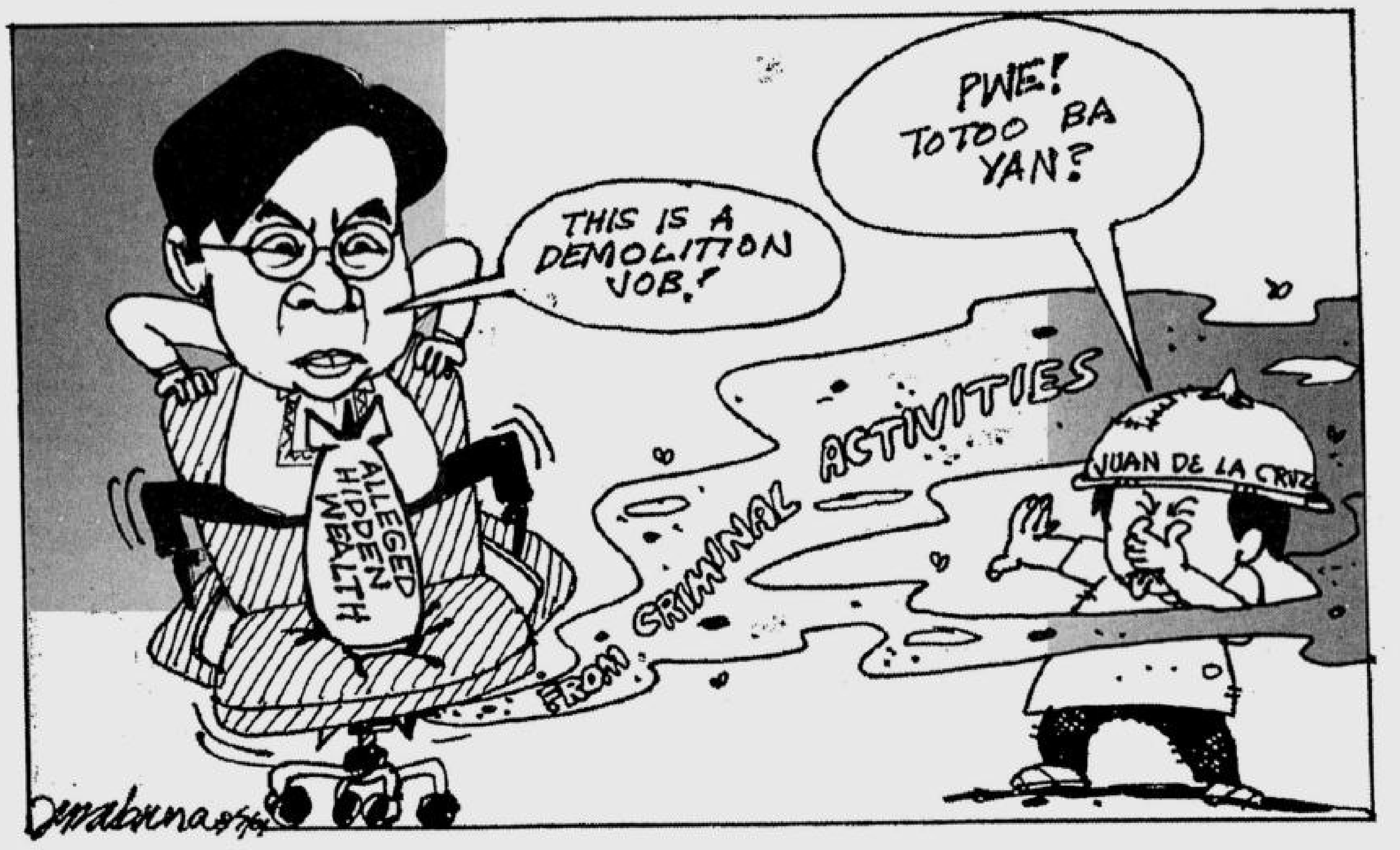

EDITORIALS

Mr. Clean?

MR. CLEAN—that was the image of Sen. Panfilo Lacson that was projected by his propagandists during the senatorial election campaign in May. His publicists touted him as a hero, a protector of the defenseless, a rescuer of kidnap victims and other people in distress, a squeaky clean public official who could do no wrong.

The successful projection of the Mr. Clean image was one of the factors that won Lacson a seat in the Senate. One other big factor was a well-funded campaign that covered the length and breadth of the archipelago.

But if the claims of Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo—among other people—are to be believed, Lacson is anything but Mr. Clean. Corpus, the Isafp fact-finding team and Tulfo are alleging that Lacson violated the law in many instances, killing or "salvaging" (summarily executing) people, making millions from illegal activities like kidnapping for ransom, making money from drug deals and smuggling and laundering money in the United States.

Colonel Corpus, with a team of ranking military and police officers, conducted the inquiry into Lacson's allegedly unexplained wealth for about a month, from June 2 to July 3, in the United States. They were assisted, they said, by the US Customs Service which got an assurance from them that the investigation was not politically motivated.

The team made mind-boggling findings, including the supposed discovery of 18 savings, time and checking accounts containing a total of more than $728 million (about P39 billion at the current exchange rate), held singly or jointly by Lacson, his wife Alice and ousted President Joseph Estrada in the United States, Hong Kong and Canada. The $728 million includes the $320 million that Lacson has allegedly deposited in American banks and which US authorities have "unofficially confirmed," according to Col. Mario Chan of the Isafp.

The Isafp team also uncovered several houses, two companies and other assets which Lacson and his wife, the former Alice de Perio, did not declare in their statements of assets and liabilities. Chan said in the report that "Lacson has no visible and legal means of acquiring these properties and bank accounts while he was in the government service."

But let us not rush to judgment and consider Lacson guilty of the things he has been accused of by the Isafp team. Like any other citizen, he is entitled to the presumption of innocence until proved guilty. Let him have his day in court. Yesterday he and Sen. Luisa "Loi" Estrada answered the allegations against them. After their privilege speeches and the interpellations by their colleagues, the charges were referred to the committee on rules which will decide which committees will conduct an inquiry, if there is going to be one.

We hope that the charges will be referred to a committee or several committees for a full-dress investigation. It is best that an inquiry be conducted in fairness to both Lacson and Corpus. Let the truth come out in an inquiry. The Senate may be sometimes known as an Old Boys Club but this is one time it cannot ignore serious charges against one of its members. A senator cannot continue to sit in the (once) august hall of the Senate under a cloud of suspicion.

His idol is FM

COLONEL Chan's report called Lacson "a corrupt and nefarious individual." Others have called Lacson a "dangerous and ambitious" person. Some politicians consider him a serious contender for the presidency in 2004. Could he be planning to take a route similar to that taken by Ferdinand E. Marcos in winning the presidency?

That Lacson considers Marcos the greatest president the country ever had speaks volumes about the senator's values and sense of right and wrong. As members of the younger generation would say, "Hello?" Never heard of the decision of a Hawaii court validating the slaying and torture of close to 10,000 victims of human rights violations during the martial law regime? Doesn't he know that Marcos and his heirs are facing several cases for the recovery of billions of pesos in ill-gotten wealth? Never heard of the citation in the Guinness Book of World Records that Marcos "stole" a total of $5-$10 billion? Doesn't he know that Marcos during his 14-year dictatorship corrupted, debased and destroyed the country's institutions—from the Supreme Court down to the military and the police?

Perhaps the senator should review recent history. And then, if a Senate investigation is to be conducted, we suggest that, out of *delicadeza*, he take a leave of absence so that he would not be in a position to influence witnesses and other people who may participate in the inquiry.

Overpriced land may cost cancellation of P5.5-B port project

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE MACAPAGAL administration's development projects are already sputtering to a stop before they can even start. The P5.5 billion Batangas Port Project, Phase II, for example, may have to be cancelled because of ballooning costs. The original P5.5-billion cost will more than double to P11.5 billion largely because of land acquisition costs. A judge has raised the price of 120 hectares of land to be expropriated from P500 per sq.m to a whopping P5,500 per sq.m.

The construction of the port—which, strictly speaking, is the brainchild of then Transportation Secretary (now Justice Secretary) Hernando Perez of Batangas back in 1986—is being funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) with a counterpart fund from the Philippine government of P600 million for land acquisition. But the project is on the brink of cancellation by the lender because the Philippine government cannot acquire the affected land at reasonable cost, said Batangas Gov. Hermenegildo Mandanas, and the government does not seem to be worried about it. Nobody seems to be in control of the situation or realize its implication.

The expropriation proceedings started in early 1999 by the Philippine Ports Authority in the regional trial court of Batangas. Zonal valuation at the time of filing of the case was between P350 to P500 per sq.m. The PPA was represented by its own lawyers with the assistance of the Office of the Solicitor General.

During the hearings, the court appointed a Board of Commissioners to assist the court in the determination of just compensation. And here developments start to smell of a conspiracy. Government lawyers (from the PPA and OSG) failed to attend any hearing called by the Board of Commissioners. Whether they willfully did not attend or were not notified of the hearings is murky. As a result, all the evidence were heard ex-parte in favor of the landowners due to the failure of the government lawyers to present their evidence.

Although the zonal valuation was only from P350 to P500 per sq.m, the board recommended a price of P4,800, but the judge raised this further to P5,500 per sq.m. A motion for reconsideration questioning the decision was filed but the judge rejected it. The government lawyers appealed to the Court of Appeals but—and this is very strange—failed to file the appeal docket fee on time. It was filed one day late, a serious error that affects the perfection of the appeal. Hence, the landowners claimed that the RTC decision has become final and executory and moved for the dismissal of the appeal. The case is now before the Court of Appeals.

According to a PPA source, the same judge issued several orders in October 2000 garnishing PPA funds deposited in the Land Bank and the Philippine National Bank. The same judge issued another order for the garnishment of PPA funds in the National Treasury. A timely issuance of a writ of injunction by the Court of Appeals, however, prevented the implementation of the garnishment orders.

If the price of P5,500 per sq.m set by the court is not reduced, the cost of land acquisition alone will amount to P6 billion, an amount that is even bigger than the construction cost of P5.5 billion. The budget of the Philippine government for land acquisition is only P600 million, or P500 per sq.m. Since the P5,500 price fixed by the judge is obviously too much—and can open the PPA to graft charges for entering into a contract grossly disadvantageous to the government—and the government does not have the required funds, the project may be cancelled. This will result in international embarrassment for the Philippines which has already spent an enormous amount of money in the preparation of feasibility studies and detailed engineering designs for the project. In its meeting last June 2001, the PPA board of directors set a final price of P500 per sq.m. and gave the landowners 60 days within which to accept the government offer. If they reject it, the project will be scuttled.

This would be a big blow to government development efforts as the port is envisioned to spur economic development in the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) area. Industries are expected to relocate their manufacturing and warehousing activities in the area, away from the worsening traffic congestion in Metro Manila. It will also serve as an alternate port to the Port of Manila, which is expected to reach its full capacity very soon.

The construction of this modern port and container terminal is estimated to last three years and it should have started last year.

* * *

The *colorum* buses and jeepneys in Metro Manila will not be legalized after all. Chair Dante Lantin of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board(LTFRB) said so himself in a letter to the INQUIRER published yesterday.

Hooray for Lantin! I am glad the report was wrong. The misleading report could have come from various transport groups that have been requesting the LTFRB and the Department of Transportation and Communications to legalize their *colorum* and out-of-line operations.

With that clarified, let's get the *colorum* off the streets to ease the traffic congestion. The government tolerated the *colorum* in the past because of the lack of public transport for commuters. But now that the Metrorail is operating but can't seem to get enough passengers so that the government is forced to subsidize it with taxpayers' money, there is no longer any justification for tolerating them.

Banana republic

(*Conclusion*)

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE FLOIRENDOS got the lease contract to the 5,212-hectare Davao Penal Colony in 1969 from Ferdinand Marcos. The original lease was for 25 years. It was renewed for another 25 years, according to Pambansang Ugnayan ng mga Nagkakaisa at Nagsasariling mga Organisasyon sa Kanayunan, some time in 1997 by then Justice Secretary Teofisto Guingona.

Today, the Floirendos, or Tadeco, are paying government an unbelievably paltry sum of P1,500 per hectare when the current price for leased commercial farms is P35,000 per hectare. Stanfilco currently pays the government $700 per hectare for land that used to belong to Davao Abaca Plantation Corp. that was put under land reform in 1994. Even the Floirendos' own contract growers, who number in the hundreds, lease land for P10,000 per hectare. Some people are truly closer to God than others.

The P1,500 per hectare that Tadeco pays the Bureau of Correction—this is already presumably adjusted for inflation, the original amount in 1969 being P250—comes out to P7.8 million yearly. Tadeco's yearly income, on the other hand, as computed by Jun Borras, Steve Quiambao and Danny Gatche, is P2.1 billion gross, and P500 million net (at 25 percent of gross). These figures are based on an exchange rate of P40 to $1; one can imagine what Tadeco now makes with the dollar having crossed the P50 to $1 threshold.

Incidentally, Tadeco declares a loss in income every year, which should make anyone wonder why they persist in remaining in this business and not just give it up to their contract growers. Out of patriotism? Well, Rene Bañez, the new BIR chief, to whom President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has entrusted the future of this country, might wish to look into this resolute demonstration of love of country. If he dares, considering that his boss herself seems reluctant to change anything in the current arrangement.

Tadeco turns over the P7.8 million yearly to the Bureau of Correction, which ultimately means to the Department of Justice, which is its parent unit. That has kept DOJ officials pretty much blind to this monumental shortchanging of government. If the farmers' organizations in Dapecol are to be believed, the P7.8 million in rent Tadeco pays the justice department is nothing compared to the sums it spends to make the department's officials happy. That is the reason the DOJ is loath to part with the land and turn it over to the Department of Agrarian Reform to which it now clearly belongs. They too draw a good harvest from it, which is by no means peanuts, or bananas.

Far from barking up the wrong tree, Hernani Braganza, the current DAR head, goes straight to the heart of the matter by focusing his energies on the 5,212-hectare Dapecol land. It is the place to start land-reforming plantation land. It remains government land to begin with, theoretically making it less difficult to distribute it. The land does not need to be expropriated, the government only needs to exercise its right over it and use it for the good of the many. That good is alleviating poverty and empowering the people by giving them access to land. The fact that Tadeco is paying next to nothing for it gives government all the moral right to rescind the lease if it wants to. Surely, the justice department, which has been imaginative enough to conjure ghosts to justify iniquity, will finally be imaginative enough to invoke the law to justify justice?

Indeed, the government has all the moral right to land-reform the other former Dapecol lands as well as those that now belong to private entities. Those lands were ill-gotten, in the truest sense of that word, the product of nothing more than personal connections in government. They were either gotten for free or for a pittance. The least the owners can do is be satisfied to have made a fortune off them. The government should pay as much as P1 million per hectare for their land? They should pay the people P1 million per hectare for skimming the fat of land that should never have been theirs all these years.

The productivity question is a red herring. As Borres, Quiambao and Gatche point out, studies show that economics in banana production are needed only in such phases as aerial pesticide spraying and packing. They are not needed in cleaning the farm, leaf-trimming, trunk cleaning and the application of medicines. There, family labor is probably more efficient. The land could be distributed to deserving tenants, and they could continue with banana production as before, with help from the government and the business sector.

In any case, as Borres, Quiambao and Gatche further argue, there are many ways to land-reform the Dapecol land, distributing land to individuals being only one of them. But it's the best of them since it meets the social-justice intention of land reform squarely, without materially sacrificing productivity. Other ways range from collective ownership of the land by beneficiaries to post-land-reform arrangements with the companies currently leasing them, such as leaseback, growership, and production and marketing relations.

The point is simple: putting the Dapecol land under land reform isn't only right and just, it is also reasonable and practical. And it paves the way to land-reforming other plantation lands.

Which brings us to why it is being opposed not just by its current leaseholders, who are the Floirendos, and by the other plantation owners who see it as the writing on the wall, but by the President herself. The mechanics of it—indeed of this whole phase of land reform—can always be negotiated. There are no hard and fast rules there. But to simply put the Dapecol land beyond the pale of land reform, no, to pillory a DAR secretary for devoting his energies to reclaiming it for the poor farmers, only the President can explain it. She did vow her government would show a bias for the poor. Well, actions speak louder than words.

If this is the kind of preferential treatment the poor can expect of her, they have every right to go bananas.

Opposition ranks may be thinning

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WE don't know if Joseph Estrada, his wife, Sen. Loi Ejercito and Sen. Panfilo Lacson are guilty of the crime of money-laundering abroad, as alleged by Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. But as more evidence is revealed by Corpus, even if they remain unconfirmed by official sources, such as the foreign banks, the case gets more eye-popping. After the billion-dollar bank accounts came the houses supposedly owned by Lacson in the United States. What have been presented to the media are only copies of documents, but even these are remarkable for the fact that they were obtained at all from abroad.

Congress has always been hesitant to probe its own, but this case of alleged money laundering is so mind-boggling that the Senate has no choice but to conduct joint hearings by several committees that have jurisdiction over something like this.

* * *

The opposition has not reacted to the Corpus exposé, except for a challenge from Estrada and Lacson that Corpus present hard evidence or shut up. But the opposition in the Senate, which has been quick to criticize the Macapagal administration, has been so quiet, stunned doubtless by the magnitude of the accusations. It's easy to see the opposition ranks in the Senate thinning as the Lacson-Ejercito cases unravel. The majority bloc led by Senate President Frank Drilon has managed to hang on with a razor-thin margin. The Corpus exposé may have changed all that. I can see, for instance, Sen. Robert Jaworski ripe for a "*sungkit*" especially since he has long been known for his strong aversion to illegal drugs. There's also Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who is known for his upright stance on issues, and Sen. Serge Osmeña.

* * *

Everyone should to read the long letter that appeared in the Inquirer yesterday from five UP economics professors for it places the SSS problem in the proper perspective. The professors raise a number of issues that came to light during the mass actions against its ousted president Vitaliano Nañagas. Perhaps the most important is the issue of accountability of some top SSS officials who became involved in questionable deals during the Estrada administration. The professors cited former SSS president Carlos Arellano's admission that the firm invested in Belle Resources, Megaworld Properties, PCIBank (without benefit of a due diligence report) and other speculative shares on Estrada's instructions. They pointed out that the SSS acquired Belle shares at prices well above the market value and extended a P375-million loan to the company after sinking P745 million into it. They also noted that 28 percent of SSS stock investments are still locked in 24 corporations awaiting "better prices."

The financial condition of the SSS, in fact, became so bad that it reported losses for the first time in its 44-year history, and it had to borrow from other financial institutions. The Macapagal administration even had to float the idea of increasing premium payments in order to keep the SSS afloat, but the public raised vehement objections and the plan was shelved.

* * *

What hurts Nañagas and decent elements in society is that the SSS employees never raised a hue and cry when the firm was being financially raped through bad investments and the fat salaries and perks executives gave themselves. This was probably because the rank and file also enjoyed a number of increases in pay, doubtless to keep them quiet. One can see how low our people have sunk in values.

What President Macapagal should have done was put the erring SSS officials under preventive suspension immediately after she assumed office so that they couldn't have manipulated the rank and file. But that's the problem with a government that didn't have the luxury of a transition.

* * *

Recall a recent story in this paper's Metro section written by photo-journalist Mandy Navasero about 15-year-old Jon-Jon Gutierrez, who suffered from a rare disease, a measles complication that attacks the nervous system. The once-athletic Jon-Jon, seventh of 13 children of an impoverished family, had to stop his studies and be confined in bed, because his parents didn't have the money to buy the expensive medicines prescribed by Dr. Bernie Chua of the Philippine General Hospital.

Jon-Jon's case touched the hearts of several people. Civic worker Melon Recto-Silverio brought his case to Mandy, she of the soft heart for the poor, who told Inquirer editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc. Letty promised to give space for Mandy's story. Learning of Jon-Jon's need to be hospitalized, I linked up Mandy and Melon with another lady with a golden heart, Baby Ledesma-Caparas, wife of Dr. Naning Caparas of UP-PGH. Baby, who serves on the board of Friends of PGH and the PGH Auxiliary Board, made arrangements to have Jon-Jon confined at PGH, but unfortunately there was no space in the charity wards. Melon decided to put the boy in the pay ward where bed space costs over P200 a day. Mandy asked Victoria Vizcarra-Amalingan, owner of Vizcarra Pharmaceutical, if she could lower the cost of each vial of medicine costing P4,450 each, and she discounted it to P3,500. Jon-Jon needed five vials a day for at least five days.

I'm happy to report that Jon-Jon remains confined at PGH under Dr. Chua's care, and generous souls, touched by Mandy's story, have sent money for his medicines and nourishment. Hopefully, someday, he will play basketball again.

* * *

The legendary Prof. Onofre Pagsanghan, who has spent 50 years of his life teaching the students of the Ateneo High School's honors section, 4-A, the humanities, wrote to invite me to watch the production of his pet educational theater project, Dulaang Sibol, of Shakespeare's "Julius Ceasar." "You might find interesting what our teenage actors are up to and how they make Shakespeare's Ceasar relevant to them in the Manila of 2001," said "Pagsy."

Intrigued, I did just that, and I was happy to note that in that corner of the world, theater is very much alive in these youngsters, who religiously rehearsed after school for a month and a half. They not only acted the parts but designed the sets, the lights, etc.

"Pagsy" neatly tied up the play of Shakespeare with a prologue and an epilogue that became a commentary on our political and cultural times. I thought to myself, if the love for theater and the arts could be inculcated at that young age, then the students will carry this in their hearts for the rest of their lives and become better individuals. Pagsy invites everyone to see "Julius Ceasar" on Aug. 10 and 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the Ateneo's Tanghalang Onofre Pagsanghan.

Swimming with whales

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"OCEAN Adventure Marine Park" in Subic opened in January on the day Erap left Malacañang. "So on that day," says Ocean Adventure chair Tim Desmond, "many of our investors also said goodbye."

But even before it opened its doors to the public, Ocean Adventure was already dodging protests from environmental groups and animal rights and welfare organizations. Though in this country, says Desmond, there's no attempt to separate what should be three distinct groups. In fact, the marine park is now embroiled in a court case involving a temporary restraining order on a "cease and desist" order from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

On the day we came to visit, one of the false killer whales, so-called because they bare white gleaming teeth which look dangerous but are hardly used since they ingest their food whole, had died early that morning. "Deuce," as the animal was called, was easily the "most vulnerable" of the "family" brought over from a marine park in China, says Desmond. A young bachelor whale, he seemed the most affected by the transfer. Desmond, though made clear that tests they had conducted so far showed no infection in Deuce's remains, and no toxic elements in the water where the animals' pens are located. But clearly, Desmond and his wife Gail were affected by the loss of an animal in their care.

***

STILL, the show went on.

There was hardly any indication of a "death in the family" as we strode into Ocean Adventure shortly before 2 p.m. that Monday. Dedj Escasa met us at the gate, while guides Mabel and Aubrey gave an orientation on the "swim with the whales" experience. The guides looked really disappointed that only three out of our group of 12 were going into the water: my daughter Miya, niece Crissy and nephew Rico. I had a possible ear infection as an excuse, but the others recoiled at the thought of getting into touching distance of slimy marine creatures.

"Well, the fish were smelly and slimy," Miya reported after their swim, "but the whales didn't feel like fish at all." As Mabel and Aubrey told us during the post-swim lecture, false killer whales or pseudoca crassidens, are marine mammals born from the wombs of their mothers. They have tiny hairs on their skin when newly born, but these eventually drop off as they mature. "Smooth and shiny," was how the three swimmers described their swimming partners.

From a distance, we watched the three daring members of our crew toss live fish at the wide-open maws of the whales, and practice hand signals that told the whales to swim away, turn, swirl, or jump in the air. They could even "tell" the whales to emit their repertoire of clicks, squeals and whistles. Together with three trainers and a diver, they also waded as near to shore as possible, and after some pointers, they were able to hold onto the whales' dorsal fins as the creatures swam around their confinement. Before the "swim with the whales" ended, the three had a chance to pose with the pair of "smiling" whales, who bared their teeth in wide toothy grins.

***

ORIGINALLY scheduled to open last December, Ocean Adventure's formal opening has been moved back to September, mainly because of additional construction work carried out because the management felt the original plans could not accommodate the expected influx of visitors.

For now, Ocean Adventure occupies just a small portion of the entire park area, in the farthest corner reserved for the "swim with the whales." It is also here where the marine mammal shows are held. Makeshift structures provide for (very clean) restrooms and shower stalls, a lecture area, a souvenir store and a temporary underwater display. Customers can while the time in between shows sitting beneath giant beach umbrellas and ordering food from the snack bar. So conscientious is the staff about maintaining cleanliness that they will pick up even the tiniest paper napkin blown off from a table.

To critics who say that Ocean Adventure shouldn't sell itself as a "marine conservation" effort since the dolphins, sea lions and false killer whales who will make up the captive population are not endangered, Desmond replies that "it is not the best idea to use the most stressed animals to change public attitudes" about the need for conservation. What is important, he says, is to "make the people care about the environment, in this case the bay, where these animals live."

Well, one could do worse on a lazy weekday than sit around under a hazy sky, contemplating the sea and wondering about the fate of a false killer whale named Deuce.

***

THERE isn't that much activity in Subic on a weekday, but we saw a fair number of Japanese and Chinese tourists to justify the term "tourism complex" for this former US naval base. We were particularly heartened to encounter groups of locals visiting the sights and patronizing the establishments.

The evening after visiting Ocean Adventure, SBMA Chair Tong Payumo and his gracious wife Daisy treated us adults to dinner at A Tavola, a new Italian restaurant that apparently has quite a following among the expats. The food more than justified this following, especially the house specialty, eggplant parmigiana.

The next day, what had been originally planned as a trek through the forests of Subic ended up as a mere demonstration of jungle survival skills at the JEST camp. Here, senior trainer Rolly Fernandez, who describes himself as "Italiano" (for Aeta-Ilocano), expertly showed off his skills in fashioning various implements from green bamboo, finding water from vines trailing the jungle floor, and most important, starting a fire with little more than two pieces of dried bamboo, some sawdust and sweat power. "You must have been laughing your head off while you were watching 'Survivor,'" I told him, recalling how those wusses struggled in vain to create a flame. He just smiled.

Did you say History is boring?

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

A FRIEND sent me an e-mail with some entertaining information especially relevant to devotees of games like "Trivial Pursuits" or people who just enjoy trivia. Considering the state of the nation, we all need lightening up, seeing there is little we can do aside from moaning and groaning which get boring after a while. With the peso close to an all-time low, even a mathematically challenged individual wouldn't advise you to blow your savings on a shopping spree or take the first overseas tour available to take your mind off our troubles. So instead here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, and so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of using the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children, last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it, hence, the saying "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained, it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof, hence, the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt, hence the saying "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway, hence, a "threshold."

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while, hence, the rhyme, "peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man "could bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with a high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Most people did not have pewter plates but had trenchers, a piece of wood with the middle scooped out like a bowl. Often trenchers were made from stale bread which was so old and hard that they could be used for quite some time. Trenchers were never washed and a lot of times worms and mold got into the wood and old bread. After eating off wormy, moldy trenchers, one would get "trench mouth."

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle and guests got the top, or "upper crust."

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination would sometimes knock them out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up, hence, the custom of holding a "wake."

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a "bone-house" and reuse the grave. When reopened, one out of 25 coffins was found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they thought they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell. Thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer."

And that's the truth...(Whoever said that History was boring?!)

Superman

YOUNGBLOOD

Tripper

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

HE comes and goes depending not on his own inclination but necessity. In times of distress and emotional chaos, if I want him to be with me, I only have to think of him and wish for him to be with me and I can be sure he will respond to my call. My heart can silently do the asking even if my mouth is shut and all phones are off the hook.

There is a downside to this though. Unlike 911, which, has a staff of people, he is, although more swift and powerful, very much alone. And sometimes, there are matters of greater consequence if not a person of greater importance that he has to attend and so his response is delayed. These are the times when I have to remind myself painfully and regretfully that he is so not mine. And that he couldn't be mine, ever.

He is not Clark Kent, and I am not Lois Lane. But this is about my Superman. No, he can't fly and he's not from out of this world. Superman is his favorite cartoon hero. If the fictional Superman's weakness is krypton, it is a broken heart for my Superman. I know because I met him at a time when his broken heart caused by a very special girl was taking the better of him. Without hesitation, I entered his life to help him. I didn't realize there wouldn't be an easy way out even if it seemed my cause had been served. We became close, if not best friends.

I resolved not to fall in love with him. But time didn't work for me exactly as I wanted it to. Instead of allowing what was purposely hidden to be buried and forgotten, time set a moment for revealing. One single word, a slip of the tongue, forced us to deal with our realities more closely and speak our minds openly. He looked at it objectively while I took it personally.

He found out that I almost fell in love with him. I told him I tried to avoid him so the feeling wouldn't grow any deeper. He told me he knew since way back then that I wouldn't have wanted something romantic to blossom between us. He believed I always wanted to keep our relationship platonic.

Boy, was he so wrong! But then, he could be right. I was, indeed, afraid to fall for him because at that time, it would have ended the friendship between his ex-girlfriend and me. Everyone would have thought I had purposely walked into his life to win him. But God knows I just wanted him to heal his heart, seeing how much he was hurting. My own bittersweet past taught me precious lessons and gave me the gift of seeing through people. I knew how he could do it and that he could do it, so I helped him.

Why shouldn't I? I had my own broken heart to deal with and having someone to go through the closure process with me would definitely help. I had no intention of falling for him or making him fall for me. Why would I want trouble as colossal as that? If I knew for sure a storm was coming, I wouldn't climb a mountain or sail out to sea. If there were ways to be safe and comfortable, I would do it. So when my heart started telling me to see him and talk to him more often, I labeled him dangerous. That was when I started avoiding him. And being wise, bright and emotionally tuned, he noticed.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, one Mr. Wrong Guy came along. He took me away from Superman and made me the center of his universe. It was awesome in the beginning but tragic in the end.

Then my college years ended and after a year and a few more wrong guys later, we met again. It happened on his free night when the world was calm and in order. I was talking about a guy from my distant past when he interrupted me in mid-sentence and asked if there was something I hadn't told him. Later he told me that I mentioned something which I couldn't recall saying. If he were drunk, I would have accused him of putting words into my mouth. But we weren't drinking and we were both sober. I guess fate played a trick on me.

Still, nothing happened. I felt more confident that I could tell him anything and everything on my mind. He had been telling me that he didn't talk to anyone else the way he talked to me and that was very flattering to me. But in spite of our genuine friendship and emotional compatibility attunement, it couldn't be us. I asked him if be was uncomfortable knowing what I felt. He said he took it objectively.

A few minutes before sunrise, we parted. It was pretty sad because I knew I couldn't end up with him. He knew and understood me like nobody did. He talked to me as if he had watched me all my life. He knew when I was telling a big lie or when I was desperately trying to convince myself of something that wasn't real. But the truth was, it was not just me. He was practically the same to everyone. Although he didn't want to get too close to too many people, his company was always sought. If his friendship were an item in the market, it would have been a best seller. Perhaps this was the reason he actually had a fan's club in college.

I guess his sobriety was what drew girls to him. He was used to girls pouring out their feelings to him. And at that night, I became one of them.

But among the many, I was the closest in his heart and that was quite satisfying for me. Not enough, though. How I wished we could be friends and more. Once we talked about how I could tell if a guy was the right one for me. One by one, he made me eliminate all wrong guys in my past and explained to me what was wrong with them. I wasn't surprised when he explained why he couldn't be the right one for me. He was so in love with his blessed girlfriend.

I felt some relief that my feelings were out in the open. In the future. I wouldn't have to wonder of what might have happened if I told him, because I did tell him about it. But still, a part of me said I wasn't entirely accurate in defining my real feelings. Because the truth was, it wasn't something that happened in the past. After we parted, and after so many wrong guys, it was still there and growing. I was afraid eventually, sooner than I thought, I might have to discreetly walk away from him again, if only to preserve a once-in-a-lifetime kind of genuine friendship.

I suppose I don't know enough. Maybe there are people from opposite sexes who can keep a great friendship but wouldn't be as great as lovers. Or maybe, he's just a symbol of the man I want to be with. Maybe I haven't met my Mr. Right and Superman can help me find him.

But at the end of the the day, I wonder why I am sure that he will meet me even when it is late at night and he is just about to go to sleep; why he told me I could ask him about everything and receive an answer; why we have the same dreams; why we can talk for hours until dawn and still have many things to talk about the next morning and the next year; why my text reaches him just when he is thinking of sending me one; why I know him so well and he knows me so well; why we both love writing fiction; why we are so emotionally attuned to each other, etcetera, etcetera. Maybe I'll be able to convince myself that we are meant to be just friends.

If our story were a movie, the audience would probably be disappointed with its ending. "Why didn't the writer let them end up together?" they might ask. "Too bad, she had to settle with the next-best guy," others would say. "But Superman isn't for someone who is completely human like her!" still others might declare. If I heard them, I would laugh. And then, I might force myself to agree. Some stories end differently.

Tripper, 21, is a freelance writer who hasn't written for some time—until this.

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LETTERS

Loss of a titan in journalism

WE in the Young Writers Assembly of the Philippines (YWAP) are one with all journalists in the world in mourning the loss of a fellow journalist, a renowned fighter for press freedom. During our second Writers' Night last July 21, 2001 at the Feati University auditorium, we and our guests from different campus publications in the National Capital Region, paused for a moment to pay our last respects to Katharine Graham, publisher of the Washington Post, who recently died at the age of 84.

We especially admire her courage in fighting for press freedom, an example which she has left to succeeding generations of writers. Graham and the Washington Post played a key role in removing from office an American president, one of the most powerful persons in the world, because of the Watergate scandal. The Washington Post, during those times of trial, displayed a lot of courage, earning for itself a significant place in the history of journalism.

Yes, we mourned the death of a titan in journalism. But her example will continue to inspire many of us to fight for the truth and remain faithful to it not to anybody. Graham gave us a very deep understanding of our chosen craft.

It's time for her to rest, and it's time for us to continue to write and fight for truth. Yes, the flame of truth shall continue to burn within us.—**GREGORIO V. BITUIN JR., secretary general, Young Writers Assembly of the Philippines, 92 Masikap Extension, Bgy. Central, Quezon City**

Wage hike will make things worse

THERE is no question that times are hard. But a wage increase at this point will just make things harder.

Bryan San Juan in his letter published July 30 had reasons to weep over the sad plight of Filipino workers. The reaction is understandable. But the reasons behind that might not be.

A wage increase indeed looks good—for the moment. In the long run, however, this will not make things any better. Not only will this have an inflationary effect on prices, this will also cause layoffs. Hence, in the final analysis, it is the workers themselves who will suffer the most.

This unwise increase will not only hit workers but also the unemployed, numbering about more than three million. Services will further shrink. No one will suffer more than the poor. And, we know, they are already suffering enough.

It is time to put sense in the way policies are formulated. People's livelihood is at stake here.—**ALLAN FROILAN B. MENDOZA, allan_ fbm@yahoo.com**

Education is a right of Filipinos

I DISAGREE with Minerva I. Salao's advice to University of the Philippines (UP) students to stop protesting the recent tuition hike and help the UP administration find "alternative sources of funds" for the dwindling UP budget.

I won't go into a polemical debate regarding socialism, but the Philippines doesn't have to be a "socialist state" to recognize that education is a right and not a privilege. The Constitution says so. Salao doesn't need to be a "socialist" to find the compelling logic in the students' struggle for more accessible as well as more relevant education. It is the inalienable right of all, and one should never compromise it for fear of "asking too much."

Is the call for an increase in UP state subsidy "too much" for us to ask? While the Constitution requires that education be given first priority, the biggest portion of the national budget goes to military spending and debt servicing. The government has money for its war against the Moro separatists and the Abu Sayyaf but not for the millions of Filipino youth deprived of accessible education, much less a UP education. It is clear to us that the government has the money, but not the political will, to adequately finance education, including UP.

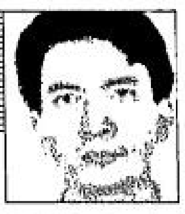
Salao claimed that most UP students come from private high schools. This remains to be statistically proven. And even if it were true, it is precisely why we are asking to democratize UP education. Precisely why we are asking the UP administration to freeze tuition and join the students in pressuring the Macapagal administration to increase the UP subsidy and give priority to education. Precisely why we should resist the UP administration 's moves to further commercialize education through planned leases of "idled assets."

To even consider "alternative sources of funds" greatly undermines the students' interests.

Salao advised us students to stop "pushing for the usual," that is, asking for greater state subsidy, and have a "reality check." What reality is she talking about? That ours is not a "socialist" state and accessible education has become "obsolete"? Does she really think we are dimwitted?—**KENNETH ROLAND GUDA, Philippine Collegian, UP Diliman, Quezon City**

Buddhism in the Philippines

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

IT is said that right after he was born, Siddharta Gautama, founder of Buddhism, began to walk, a lotus flower blooming at his feet with each step. After the seventh step, with his right hand raised, index finger pointing upwards and his left hand resting on the side, index finger pointing to the ground, he spoke: "In the heavens and on earth, I am the Master."

The "I" wasn't a reference to himself but to all human beings. What he meant was that we are all masters of our own destiny. Buddhists say that all humans have the "buddha-nature" in them, the ability, as the word "buddha" means, "to be awakened."

Siddharta Gautama, venerated today as Sakyamuni Buddha, is one of many awakened ones who achieve nirvana, no longer trapped in the cycles of birth and rebirth. They achieve nirvana when they grasp the reality that we are reborn only because we want to, because we are too attached to the world.

Ongoing at the Century Park Hotel in Manila is an extraordinary exhibit of about 300 sculptures depicting these buddhas. The exhibit is sponsored by the Buddhist Light International Association and their Manila affiliate, Fo Guang Temple. The images come in all sizes, styles and materials. They were lent to the exhibit by Buddhist temples in the Philippines (I didn't realize there were so many) as well as those overseas. There are images carved out of wood (including a towering narra figure sculpted in the Philippines), clay, jade, bronze. There are Indian and Chinese styles, traditional and modernized ones.

More than an art exhibit, the sculptures have been brought together to educate people. Reading materials and a corps of knowledgeable ushers are there to help explain the images. Contrary to popular perceptions, the images are not "worshipped"; buddhas are not considered gods and are only meant to be venerated. The images are rich in symbolism, every part of a sculpture having some meaning.

There are buddhas sitting in meditation, which is an important part of Buddhism but, reflecting how Buddhist philosophy is supposed to permeate all aspects of life. There are also standing buddhas, flying buddhas, sleeping Buddhas and, yes, there's the child Siddharta, reminding me a bit of the Sto. Niño, with his famous pose, one finger to the heavens and one to the earth. You can almost hear him say, "We are all masters."

There are also images of the bodhisatvas, those who postpone their own nirvana to help human beings. The most popular of these bodhisatvas is Avalokitesvara, better known among the Chinese as Guanyin (loosely translated as Goddess of Mercy). Originally a male bodhisatva in India, Avalokitesvara was reincarnated into Chinese Buddhism as a female for a better fit with the trait of compassion that Avalokitesvara is supposed to embody.

There are many different representations of Avalokitesvara at this exhibit. Many have her depicted with a thousand arms to emphasize how she has to respond to so many appeals. (I thought of mothers who sigh as they go after their kids, "I wish I had more hands.")

I particularly like one statue used for the exhibit's brochures and posters, showing Avalokitesvara smiling and in a very relaxed serene pose. Her legs are crossed not in the usual lotus position used in meditation but in the way someone would lounge around at home on a quiet afternoon, at peace with the world.

At the turn of the 20th century, the German sociologist Max Weber wrote that religions like Buddhism were too other-worldly and fatalistic, and that Buddhist (as well as Hindu and, curiously, Catholic) cultures could not develop the rationality and "this-world" work ethic required for modern capitalism. If Weber were alive today he'd probably rethink his thesis after visiting Asian Buddhist countries and seeing the way capitalism thrives in these countries.

I think what's happened is that today's Buddhists emphasize the young Siddharta Gautama's admonition about being one's own master rather than leaving our fate to the gods, or a God. If I may be a bit irreverent, a 21st century Siddharta would have said, "Yes, you can! *Kaya mo*!"

There is however a balancing factor that prevents this gung-ho attitude from becoming too aggressive: the notion of compassion and of the bodhisatvas. Local Buddhist groups like the Fo Guang Temple and the Tzu-Chi Foundation generate considerable funds for education, medical missions and disaster relief.

I'm not surprised to see a growing number of non-ethnic Chinese exploring Buddhism. The religion is non-judgmental and quite tolerant: it's rare that we hear of civil strife caused by Buddhist religious fanaticism. Buddhists believe that the best way of propagating Buddhism is to live its principles. Many people don't necessarily leave their own religions to convert to Buddhism. Instead, they see Buddhism as a philosophy and a guide to living. Different forms of Buddhist meditation, including Zen, offer options for dealing with a stressful world without escaping responsibilities.

Buddhism pops up in the most unexpected places. There's even a Filipino rock band called Bodhisatvas (who perform Wednesdays at the Republic of Malate). Yes, their members are practicing Buddhists, part of a worldwide family that finds peace in the world by building that peace. Drop by the exhibit, and the sculptures will tell you what I mean. The exhibit runs only until Aug. 9 at the Century Park (the hotel in front of Harrison Plaza). Admission is free.

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

'Code Red' mutants hit networks

WASHINGTON—US and British computer security experts scrambled early Monday to halt the onslaught of at least two mutant variations of the "Code Red" computer worm said to be more dangerous than their progenitor.

"We are aware of at least two variants of the computer worm making their way now," Debbie Weierman, a spokeswoman for the FBI's National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC), told AFP.

She added that the worm had been first discovered late last week, but declined to provide details beyond saying: "We are currently assessing the situation."

Meanwhile, the Symantec Anti-Virus Research Center, a private Internet security firm, identified the worm as "Code Red.C."

It said it was first discovered on Saturday and is deemed to be a variant of the original "Code Red" worm that has been ravaging US computer networks since the middle of last month.

The center said it had received reports of "a high number" of Web servers infected—leaving internet users of certain Microsoft software at risk of decreased speed of Internet access and interruptions to the functioning of their systems.

Code Red particularly targets Microsoft's Windows NT and 2000 operating systems and its IIS Web server software.

"We are assessing "Code Red.C" to be a high threat," the center said in a statement.

A similar mutant worm was reported Sunday by the British Home Office, which said the mutants were spreading through the Internet six times quicker that the original worm with possible "serious consequences for communities of users affected."

The original "Code Red" worm, which infected 250,000 systems in the United States in just nine hours on July 19, made its way into the system by first scanning the Internet, identifying vulnerable terminals and infecting them by installing itself, according to experts.

But specialists quickly found a way of dealing with original "Code Red" by installing a security patch provided by Microsoft.

The mutant worms spreading now are said to be more sophisticated and, therefore, more dangerous.

And it was not immediately clear whether a security patch to halt their advance was available.

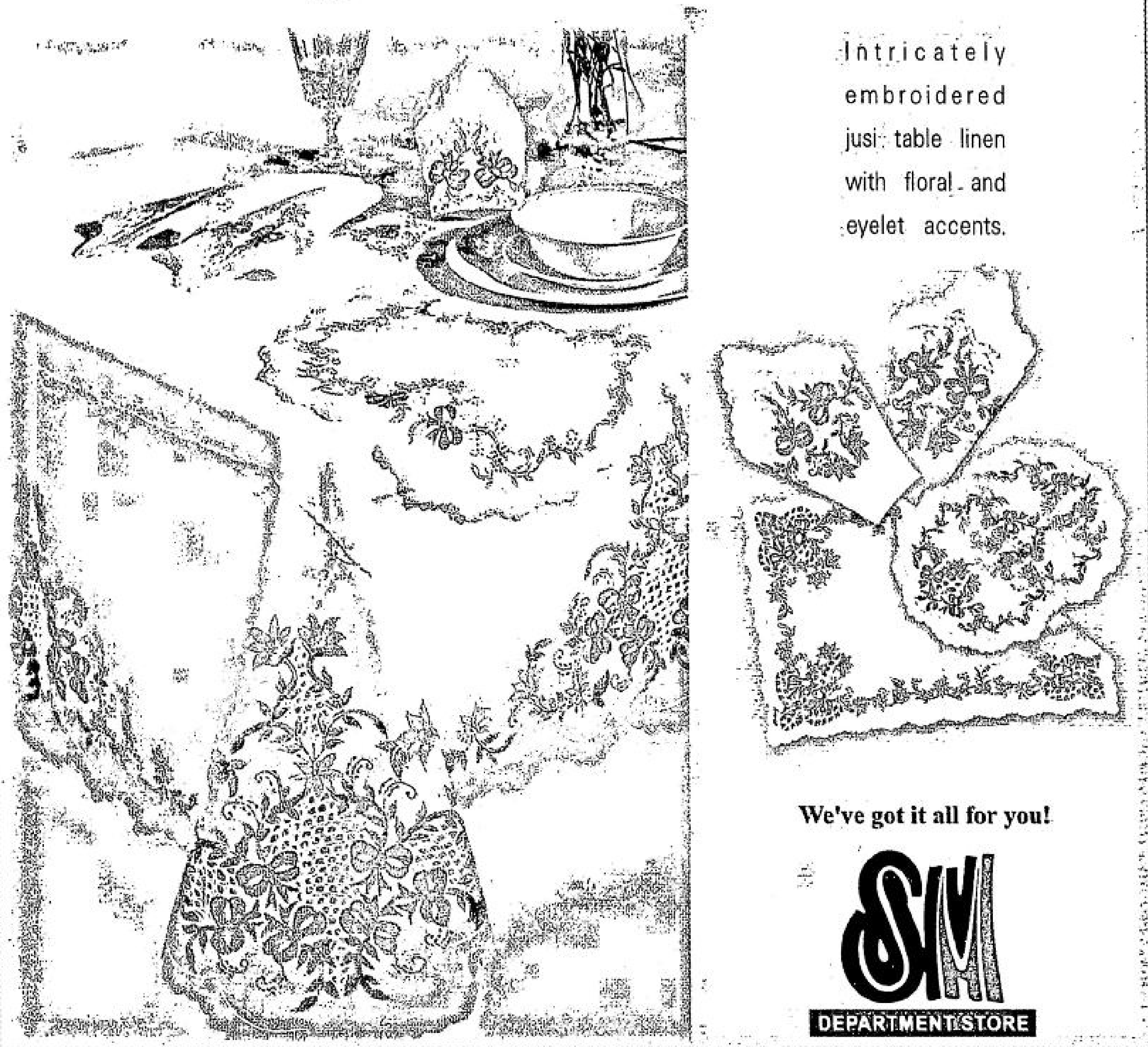
"Preliminary experiments indicate that the new worm installs a back door on infected servers," said the SANS Institute, a cybersecurity firm. "The back door makes a command shell available to any attacker."

And these attackers were quick to follow, according to expects.

An estimated 400,000 computers were infected by the mutants just Sunday afternoon, MSNBC television reported.

"This is a bigger problem than the original 'Code Red,'" Elias Levy, a spokesman for SecurityFocus.com, another Internet security company, told the network.

Federal Bureau of Investigation computer experts have been warning to some time now that self-propagating worms that exploit vulnerabilities in commonly used software platforms were likely to become "a vector of choice" of future hackers, replacing more primitive viruses. *AFP*



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US solons to ram OK of stem cell research

WASHINGTON—Support in the US Congress for federally-funded research on embryonic stem cells is so great that President George W. Bush would be unable to block it, a leading US senator said Sunday.

"It is truly a life-sustaining action to put some federal funds into this research because we know that we can cure diseases by doing it," Senator Carl Levin, a Democrat, said on CNN's "Late Edition."

"But, if the president decides to oppose it, I think there is such overwhelming support in the Congress that we will do it anyway and we could override his veto."

Speaking on the same program, Senator Jefferson Sessions of Alabama agreed that a majority in Congress would probably support funding stem-cell research regardless of Bush's stance if strict controls were in place.

Bush has for the past several weeks been considering whether to support such research, which holds great potential for healing wounds and diseases but requires the destruction of embryos or the retrieval of aborted fetuses.

The complex moral issues raised by such research cuts across party lines, with Republicans and Democrats lining up on both sides.

"It's a very difficult decision. The president is giving it all of the time that it deserves. And he will make a decision before Congress comes back in September," White House chief of staff Andrew Card said on NBC's"Meet the Press."

Stem cells are undifferentiated cells that can evolve into blood, liver, muscle and other cells. Researchers hope they can one day be used to repair damaged organs or cure diseases such as Parkinson's, diabetes and Alzheimer's.

Bush faces political pressure at home from anti-abortion activists in his own Republican party and abroad from the Catholic Church to rule against funding embryonic stem cell research because the destruction of embryos is akin to murder of a potential life.

Supporters of stem cell research argue that the embryos are created and frozen in laboratories, and would at some point be destroyed, with all value lost to science. *AFP*

North Korea A-bomb victims demand payment

TOKYO—Surviving North Korean victims of the Allies' atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in World War II demanded compensation from Tokyo, North Korea's official mouthpiece said Monday as Japan remembered its victims.

"We, A-bomb victims, demand the Japanese authorities make state compensation to us," the KCNA agency quoted the Peace Association of Korean A-bomb Victims as saying in a statement issued Sunday, the eve of the 56th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

"This demand is intended to prevent the repetition of the disasters of last century by making the present Japanese government take responsibility and compensate for the war of aggression conducted by the Japanese imperialists in the past and for damage from it," the statement added, according to KCNA monitored here.

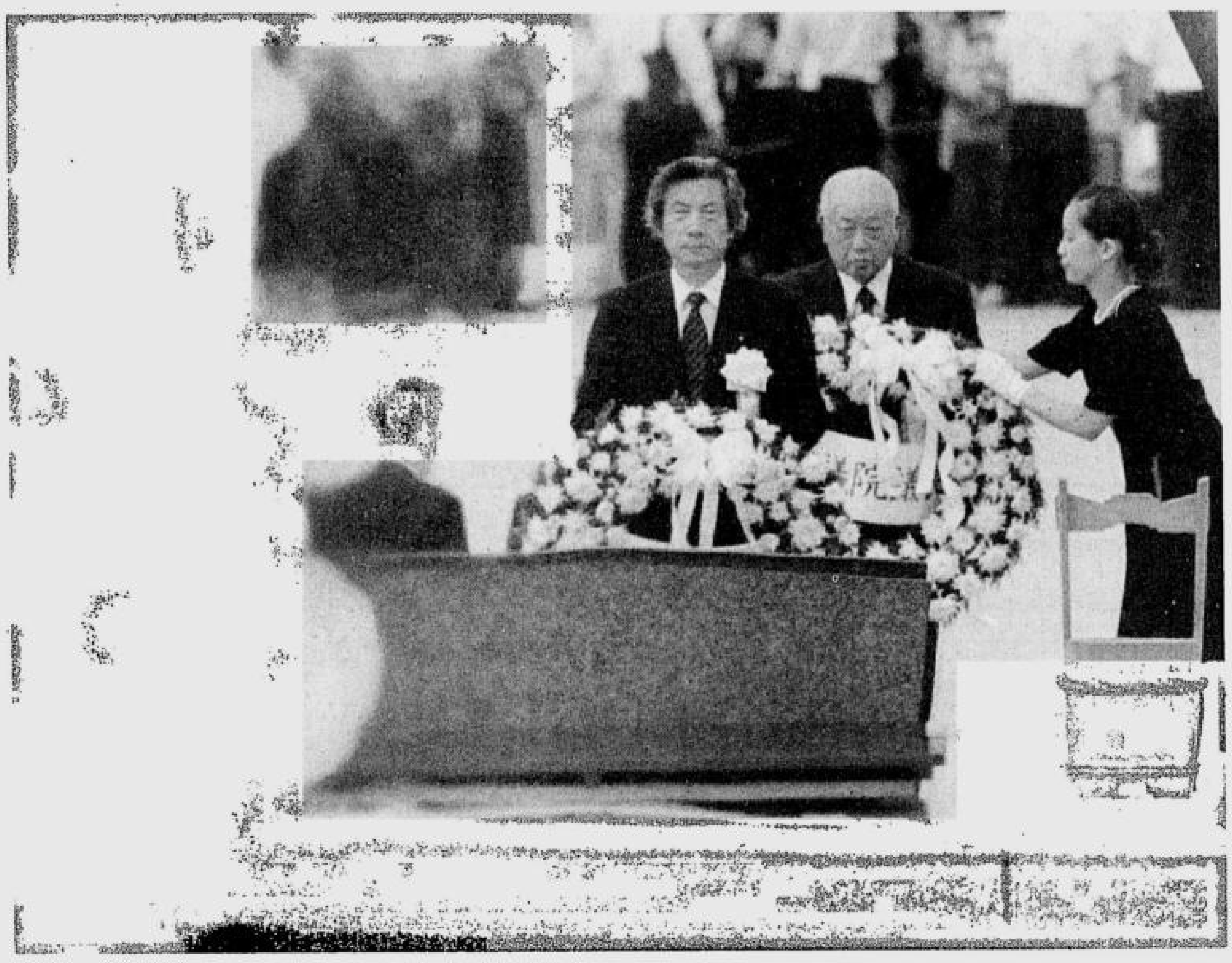
Thousands of surviving victims of the bombing of Hiroshima on August 6 1945 and Nagasaki, three days later, were still alive in North Korea, it said.

"They are persons who were forcibly taken to Hiroshima and Nagasaki for labor, military service and other missions and had to undergo backbreaking toil and suffered from A-bombs under the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists, and their descendants," the statement said.

Although Japanese A-bomb victims were entitled to financial support under the Atomic Bomb Victims Relief Law, Korean victims had not received any humanitarian aid from Japan, the victims complained.

Japan's first official mission in March to mull assistance for wartime atomic bomb victims in North Korea had not resulted in any substantive help, they said.

The statement went on to criticize Japanese prime minister Junichiro Koizumi's planned visit to a shrine venerating Japan's wardead, including war criminals. It also denounced moves to reform Japan's pacifist constitution, and the approval of school history textbooks which "distorted" Japan's military aggression. *AFP*



JAPAN Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi (center) prepares to lay a wreath in front of the cenotaph dedicated to the victims of the world's first atomic bombing at Hiroshima Aug. 6. Hiroshima marked the 56th anniversary of the atomic bomb attack that devastated the city at the closing days of World War II.

AP

Wahid's ex-masseur jailed

JAKARTA—An Indonesian court on Monday sentenced the former masseur of deposed president Abdurrahman Wahid to 42 months in jail for embezzling $3.7 million from a state pension fund.

Presiding judge Suwardi said Alip Agung Suwondo was guilty of embezzling 35 billion rupiah from the Yanatera foundation, a fund for employees of the state logistics agency Bulog.

"Therefore, the court sentences the defendant to three-and-a-half years in jail," Suwardi announced after the trial at the north Jakarta district court.

Suwondo's lawyer Denny Azari lodged an appeal against the verdict. The sentence was six months heavier than prosecutors had sought.

The case, known as "Bulogate," is one of a pair of financial scandals which formed part of the basis of two parliamentary censures of Wahid this year.

Parliament accused Wahid of possible involvement in the two scandals, a charge he denied.

The censures, along with Wahid's decision to fire the national police chief and his alleged inept rule, led to his dismissal by the national assembly in an impeachment special session on July 23.

Wahid admitted he discussed the possibility of using funds from Bulog for humanitarian aid in several troubled regions with the other defendant in the case, former Bulog deputy chief Sapuan.

Wahid insisted he cancelled his plan to obtain funds from Bulog when he learnt that a presidential decree would be required to withdraw the money.

Sapuan is currently appealing against a two-year jail term imposed in March by the same court.

He was found guilty of forcing the foundation to issue two checks—the first on January 13, 2000 for 10 billion rupiah and the second on January 20, for 25 billion rupiah.

Wahid inadvertently triggered the second scandal when he said that one reason he dropped the request for the Bulog funds was because he had since received $2 million as a gift from the Sultan of Brunei. *AFP*

Ghosts of WWII still haunt Japan 56 years after

HIROSHIMA—The ghosts of World War II haunted Japan Monday as it marked the 56th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima amid controversy over plans by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to visit a Tokyo war shrine.

After attending a ceremony to remember the horrors of Hiroshima which so far has claimed more than 200,000 lives, Koizumi told reporters he had not yet decided whether to visit the Yasukuni shrine on August 15—the 56th anniversary of Japan's surrender to the US-led allied forces.

The Shinto shrine in Tokyo is dedicated to those who died in a century of conflicts, including more than 1,000 former Japanese political leaders and soldiers convicted as war criminals by the Allies.

Koizumi has repeatedly said he wanted to pay his respects to those who died whose sacrifice laid the foundations of Japan's modern-day prosperity.

He told a press conference he had been gathering conflicting opinions.

"I am still carefully considering the issue without any bias. I want to ask you to give me more time," he told reporters.

On a day resonant with the echoes of the atrocities that accompany war, Koizumi again came under pressure to abandon his plans.

"Japan needs to send a message that it will not repeat the past folly. In this sense, Prime Minister Koizumi has seen only one dimension of the matter. I hope he will give it careful thought," said Yoshihiro Katayama, governor of the western Japanese prefecture of Tottori.

Koizumi should realize what the effect of his visit to the shrine would be on Japan's neighbors, Katayama said, quoted by Kyodo News.

"If he visits the shrine only with the explanation he has made so far, Japan's credibility in the eyes of neighboring states will be severely damaged, and its national interests will suffer in turn," Katayama said.

China as well as North and South Korea have strongly denounced Koizumi's plans saying it would amount to a justification of Japan's military past. *AFP*

CENSUS SURVEY

One-fifth of US kids spurn English at home

WASHINGTON—Nearly one-fifth of America's school-age children speak a language other than English at home, says a Census Bureau report that also shows more than 13.3 million immigrants landed in the United States between 1990 and 2000.

The numbers reflect youngsters, age 5 to 17, who receive most of their formal education in English, but speak a second language with their families: about 9.8 million, or 18 percent of that group, compared with 14 percent in the 1990 census.

Close to seven in 10 of the children spoke Spanish at home, the 2000 survey found, and two-thirds of that group rated themselves as speaking English very well. Fluency declines as people get older, as 50 percent of those age 18 to 64 who spoke Spanish at home described themselves as speaking English very well.

In the 2000 survey, there were more than 30.5 million foreign-born Americans, about 11 percent of the country's household population of 273.4 million. More came from Mexico than anywhere else. The survey did not offer estimates on the number of undocumented immigrants in America.

Estimates from the wide-ranging nationwide survey being released Monday come as lawmakers and advocacy groups debate how to shape policy on immigration and bilingual education.

Results from the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey are in line with earlier estimates of the foreign-born population—one of the fastest-growing groups in the country.

Survey information was gathered separately from the 2000 census and provides estimates of demographic trends expected to be reflected in additional census data due out next year.

The survey also covers topics such as income and poverty, educational attainment, commuting times and fertility. It is not considered a substitute for the official 2000 census figures.

Much of the recent attention on the census from Congress and the White House has focused on figures that showed the Hispanic population grew 58 percent over the 1990s to 35 million. Hispanics now rival non-Hispanic blacks as the nation's largest minority group.

The new numbers offer more evidence of the diverse makeup of American youngsters and show the need to expand bilingual education programs, said Lisa Navarette of the National Council of La Raza, the nation's largest Hispanic advocacy group.

She said the survey also helps to dispel the notion that children who speak Spanish at home have difficulty conversing in English.

A critic of bilingual education wondered why more school-age children who speak Spanish did not rate themselves as speaking English very well. *AP*

IRAQI anti-aircraft gunners keep watch for Western airplanes in this file photo dated Summer 2000. An Iraqi newspaper confirmed that Baghdad had upgraded its air defenses against US and British planes patrolling two no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq, set up after the 1991 Gulf War to protect a Kurdish enclave and Shiite Muslims.

REUTERS

Iraq to UN: Lift 11-year-old embargo

BAGHDAD—An official Baghdad newspaper urged the UN Security Council Monday to lift "without conditions" the embargo imposed on Iraq exactly 11 years ago.

"It is time the UN Security Council acted in a fair way by lifting without conditions the embargo imposed on Iraq," said Ath-Thawra, mouthpiece of the ruling Baath party.

"The Security Council has substituted international law with US wishes and transformed itself into a tool of the hostile US policy," the paper added.

Ath-Thawra warned that if the sanctions are maintained, Iraq "will consider itself free of all UN resolutions because they contravene international law."

"By submitting to the wishes of the United States, the Security Council does not deserve to be obeyed and its resolutions do not deserve to be respected," it said.

The UN Security Council slapped unprecedented wide-ranging sanctions on Iraq on Aug. 6, 1990, just four days after it invaded Kuwait.

Iraq argues that a UN oil-for-food program—launched in 1996 to allow Baghdad to export oil in exchange for food and other essentials such as medicine—does not meet the 22-million population's most basic needs.

In Stockholm, a group of prominent Swedish intellectuals on Monday urged the Swedish government to withdraw its support for UN sanctions imposed on Baghdad 11 years ago in response to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait.

"More than 1.6 million people have died so far as a result of the sanctions, from famine, disease and undernourishment. More than 500,000 of them were children," the 40 wrote in an open letter to the government published in the daily Aftonbladet.

"While the people have been weakened and society has been crushed, the position of dictator Saddam Hussein has been strengthened and the people's oppression increased."

The letter was signed by authors, artists, activists and politicians who are well known in Sweden, including European Parliament member Per Gahrton, author Henning Mankell and Lars Ohly, deputy leader of the Left Party.

"But the Swedish government still supports the sanctions. We demand that the government withdraw its support for this policy of genocide," they said.

Iraq has been under embargo since it invaded Kuwait in 1990 but has been authorized since December 1996 to export oil under UN supervision to finance imports of essential goods for its 22-million population.

On July 4, the UN Security Council extended the oil-for-food deal for five months, and last week US President George Bush announced he was extending the US sanctions. *AFP*

US discarding electric chairs for lethal injection

By David Crary

NEW YORK—Despite the affectionate nicknames—Old Smokey, Yellow Mama, Old Sparky—there has been nothing gentle about America's most lethal line of furniture.

More than 4,300 Americans have gone to the electric chair since William Kemmler, convicted of the ax-murder of his lover, was electrocuted at New York's Auburn State Prison on Aug. 6, 1890.

Now, 111 years later, experts predict the electric chair will soon become a relic. No inmate has been electrocuted for 13 months, and most states that use the chair have switched to lethal injection, considered less likely to be outlawed as cruel and unusual punishment.

Stephen Bright, director of the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, expects to see the electric chair retired "very shortly. It's bad press for the death penalty. It's not the kind of emblem that proponents want to have."

Several states that once relied exclusively on the chair now offer condemned inmates a choice of electrocution or lethal injection. Only Nebraska and Alabama have the chair as the sole method of execution.

Pro-death penalty lawmakers in both states are trying to switch to lethal injection; opposition has come from die-hard supporters of the chair and from legislators who prefer abolishing capital punishment.

In a standard electrocution, the condemned prisoner is shaved and strapped to a chair before electrodes are attached to the head and ankle.

The executioner pulls a handle, sending up to 2,200 volts through the prisoner for 30 seconds or more. Doctors check the inmate's heart; if it is still beating, another jolt is applied.

During electrocutions, internal organs burn and skin changes color. Condemned prisoners sometimes urinate or vomit blood; witnesses have said they smelled burning flesh. William Brennan, the late US Supreme Court justice, assailed the practice as the "technological equivalent of burning people at the stake."

Abolitionists like Nebraska state Sen. Ernie Chambers scoff at the notion that lethal injection is progress.

"That term is a euphemism," Chambers said. "If I did something like that to someone, they'd call it poisoning. It's designed to prettify the death penalty, portray it as something other than the barbaric throwback it is."

Chambers predicts electrocution will soon be outlawed by the courts, and hopes no substitute method is established.

"I'm opposed to any method of killing by the state, I don't care how benign and user-friendly," Chambers said.

In Alabama, state Sen. Hinton Mitchem was among the legislators who worked in the 1970s to resurrect a death penalty law that would withstand court challenges.

Like many Alabamans, Mitchem has no objection to continued use of the state's electric chair, nicknamed Yellow Mama. But he fears electrocution may be ruled unconstitutional and has pushed to make lethal injection an option.

"To save our death penalty bill, we need to change it," he said.

Mitchem's bill was opposed by Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Rodger Smitherman, a black lawmaker who wants a moratorium on executions while the death penalty's fairness is studied. *AP*

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 24° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 21°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/08/06/01

ROUNDUP

State of calamity

BAMBANG, Nueva Vizcaya—Officials declared this town in a state of calamity after a fire gutted the town's public market on July 31, destroying P200 million worth of property. Mayor Pepito Balgos said they have asked financial aid from President Macapagal-Arroyo to help almost 400 displaced market vendors.

Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FMD alert up

CABANATUAN CITY—The provincial veterinary office has declared San Leonardo town in Nueva Ecija as a foot-and-mouth disease-critical area. Dr. Ruben Hernandez, provincial veterinarian, said they classified San Leonardo as critical after 150 pigs in seven villages there were found infected by FMD. Hernandez said the provincial government has started providing free FMD vaccines, disinfectants, vitamins and other animal medicines to hog raisers to prevent the spread of the FMD virus in Nueva Ecija.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Bulacan gets guns, van

CAMP GENERAL ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police director, turned over 100 long firearms and a 20-foot container van to the Bulacan police command during his first visit here on Wednesday. The regional command recovered the firearms during its drive against organized crime and insurgency. The van, which Berroya claimed was donated by his friends, would serve as a press office for reporters covering the Bulacan provincial government. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Soldiers kill mining foe

CALAPAN CITY—An anti-mining activist and youth leader was tortured and killed allegedly by elements of the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion in an alleged encounter in a lakeside village in Naujan town on Aug. 1, a human rights group here said.

Nancy Rada, secretary general of Karapatan-Mindoro Oriental, identified the victim as Erwin Bacarra, 20, a resident of Ibaba West here and secretary general of Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap-Oriental Mindoro.

Rada said Bacarra was killed along with Eman Florendo, 29, of Sariaya, Quezon. Florendo, a graduate of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, was a suspected member of the New People's Army.

The victims were reportedly talking with farmers in Sitio Malawaan, Barangay Montelago, Naujan when Scout Rangers under a certain 1Lt. Philip Paul Fortuno arrived and opened fire on the victims, Rada said.

"There are signs that the victims were tortured before they were killed," added Rada.

Karapatan said the management of the funeral parlor in Barangay Barcenaga, Naujan town, narrated that a certain Major Caputi of the 2nd Scout Ranger Company brought to the parlor Bacarra's remains, which were put inside a sack.

Bacarra's body reportedly bore nine bullet wounds and contusions in the body.

Initial investigations by the human rights group showed that Bacarra was hit in the leg and was still alive when his captors seized him.

Rada said Bacarra was a staunch opponent of the Canadian mining firm, Crew Minerals Philippines, whose Mineral Production Sharing Agreement was recently cancelled by Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

"Erwin would always be there in almost all the protest actions against Mindex," Rada said.

"This incident is just one of the many killings in Southern Tagalog where the primary victims were leaders of organizations," Eden Marcellana of Karapatan-ST said.

Karapatan also reported that a lecturer and four members of an indigenous group were harassed at gunpoint by 20 armed men who barged into their training center in Barangay Cabatlingan, General Nakar, Quezon early dawn Friday.

A report furnished the INQUIRER said the victims were Luz Brozula, a staff of the Farmers Institute of Southern Tagalog and four members of Bigkis at Lakas ng Katutubo sa Timog Katagalugan.

The four unidentified indigenous individuals have come from Mindoro.

They were preparing to attend a training program for Balatik members in Barangay Tulaog where Brozula was one of the instructors.

The report said while the victims were asleep, about 20 men in fatigues with long firearms barged into their room and held them at gunpoint.

They were allegedly forcibly divested of their money and were asked to surrender their IDs, telephone numbers and addresses.

The armed men reportedly attempted to enter the two neighboring houses in the Cabatlingan Training Center but did not succeed.

Later, PNP elements in General Nakar, Quezon arrived and brought the victims to the police station for investigation.

Rada noted that her group had recorded 51 cases of human rights violations since the Philippine Army was deployed here in May.

The violations, she said, included salvaging, torture, illegal arrest and seizure and forced evacuation.

Orlan Maliwanag, provincial information officer, said Gov. Bartolome Marasigan had ordered an investigation of the incident. ***Joel Jabal and Romy Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Bishops vow prayers vs 'jueteng'

DAGUPAN CITY—Can prayers drive away jueteng?

Calling financiers of jueteng and their cohorts as "forces of evil," the immediate past president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines vowed that the Catholic Church would continue praying and speaking against the illegal numbers game to drive it away.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the Lingayen-Dagupan diocese last week issued the first of four circular letters to be read in all churches of the diocese from August to September. The circular condemned jueteng and other illegal activities.

Cruz said he was alarmed by the proliferation of jueteng in the province and lamented reports that some media practitioners are on the payroll of financiers.

"The media are among the most potent forces in the country and it would be a big loss if, for a measly sum of money, the media's commitment (in exposing illegal gambling) would be sold out," he said.

He also expressed sadness over reports that policemen and local officials are in the jueteng *payola*.

Cruz issued the letter in the wake of the arrest of 40 suspected jueteng bet collectors by the Department of the Interior and Local Government's Oplan Jericho and the Calasiao town police.

The arrested jueteng collectors identified a town vice mayor as their financier but the latter denied the charges.

Cruz also assailed the use of prohibited drugs that he described as "more insidious, more destructive."

"Just as the gambling lords and their collectors, the drug lords and their peddlers have made big business from our human weakness, bringing havoc to our homes, our neighborhood and community," he said.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Priests tap 'Net to raise funds for Tanjay church

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A group of priests has tapped the Internet to campaign for donations after failing to get enough support from their local parishioners to fund their church projects.

This was the experience of the priests of Tanjay City, who decided to post a letter in the Internet, appealing to Tanjay City residents living abroad to help fund the project to install new tiles in their church.

Fr. Ricarte "Nonoy" Deguit, a member of the team of priests of the St. James the Greater Parish of Tanjay City, said they started their e-mail fund raising campaign last March when they fell short of funds for the project.

The installation of new tiles in the church would cost at least P1 million.

Armed with a list of Tanjay City natives who now live abroad, Deguit said he and his fellow priests composed a letter and circulated it on the Internet via e-mail.

Of the three priests comprising the team of priests, only Fr. Fred Duran is an expert in using computers, Deguit said.

The response from Tanjay City natives who also wrote through e-mail, Deguit said, was instantaneous.

"In less than a day, we would get an e-mail response telling us that they had received our request," he told the INQUIRER.

But he said the actual transfer of funds from the United States to Tanjay was still slow.

Fr. Burton Villarmente, another member of the team, said their project has stopped since May because of lack of funds.

The team of priests, he added, has so far secured a P100,000 loan from the Dumaguete Cooperative for the down payment of the materials and have also negotiated to acquire other materials on credit.

The project is almost finished, Villarmente assured, but the priests and the church are P800,000 in debt.

"We can only resume this project as soon as we can pay our debt."

So far, Tanjay City natives living in California have pooled their funds and have come up with $500.

Sally de la Cruz, a native of Tanjay who now lives in California, said she hopes more donors would chip in, particularly Tanjay City natives who now live in other parts of the world.

Other groups had tried raising funds through the Internet and received swift responses.

The Internet has proven in past cases to be an efficient means through which to raise funds for worthy causes.

Communicating by e-mail has also become a cheaper way of getting in touch with relatives or friends who are in other countries.

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Peace advocate asks Mindanaoans to stop polls

COTABATO CITY—With barely a week before Mindanaoans ratify a new law expanding the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), a Catholic priest here sought the postponement of the Aug. 14 plebiscite and urged the people to question the measure before the Supreme Court.

"The people can petition the Supreme Court to hold in abeyance . . . the holding of the plebiscite because the government lacks . . . time to intelligently discuss the issues surrounding RA 9054 (the law expanding the ARMM)," said peace advocate Fr. Eliseo Mercado Jr.

Mercado, president of the Notre Dame University here and chair of Kusog Mindanao, a non-government organization, said many people were having the wrong perception that "once you are in (ARMM), you are in forever."

He questioned why the non-ARMM and the ARMM areas have a distinct and separate plebiscite question as embodied in RA 9054, a law amending the Organic Act (RA 6734) of the four-province ARMM.

Father Mercado considered the questioning process faulty and a violation of one's right to choose "since we are having a new law."

For the ARMM electorate, the Commission on Elections would ask if they are in favor of the amending law expanding the four-province ARMM, while provinces and cities outside ARMM would be asked if they want to be part of the expanded ARMM.

Mercado stressed that since RA 9054 is a new law, the same question should apply in all the affected provinces and cities.

He cited the plebiscites of 1977 and 1989 when Mindanaoans were asked a uniform line of questioning.

Mercado expressed apprehension that next week's information campaign would fail.

"Time is so short for the government's information campaign, and it's almost impossible to have the right information because many have already formed their own interpretation of the (new) law," Mercado said.

Besides, he said, the Nur Misuari-led Moro National Liberation Front and some ARMM voters were planning to boycott the coming political exercise.

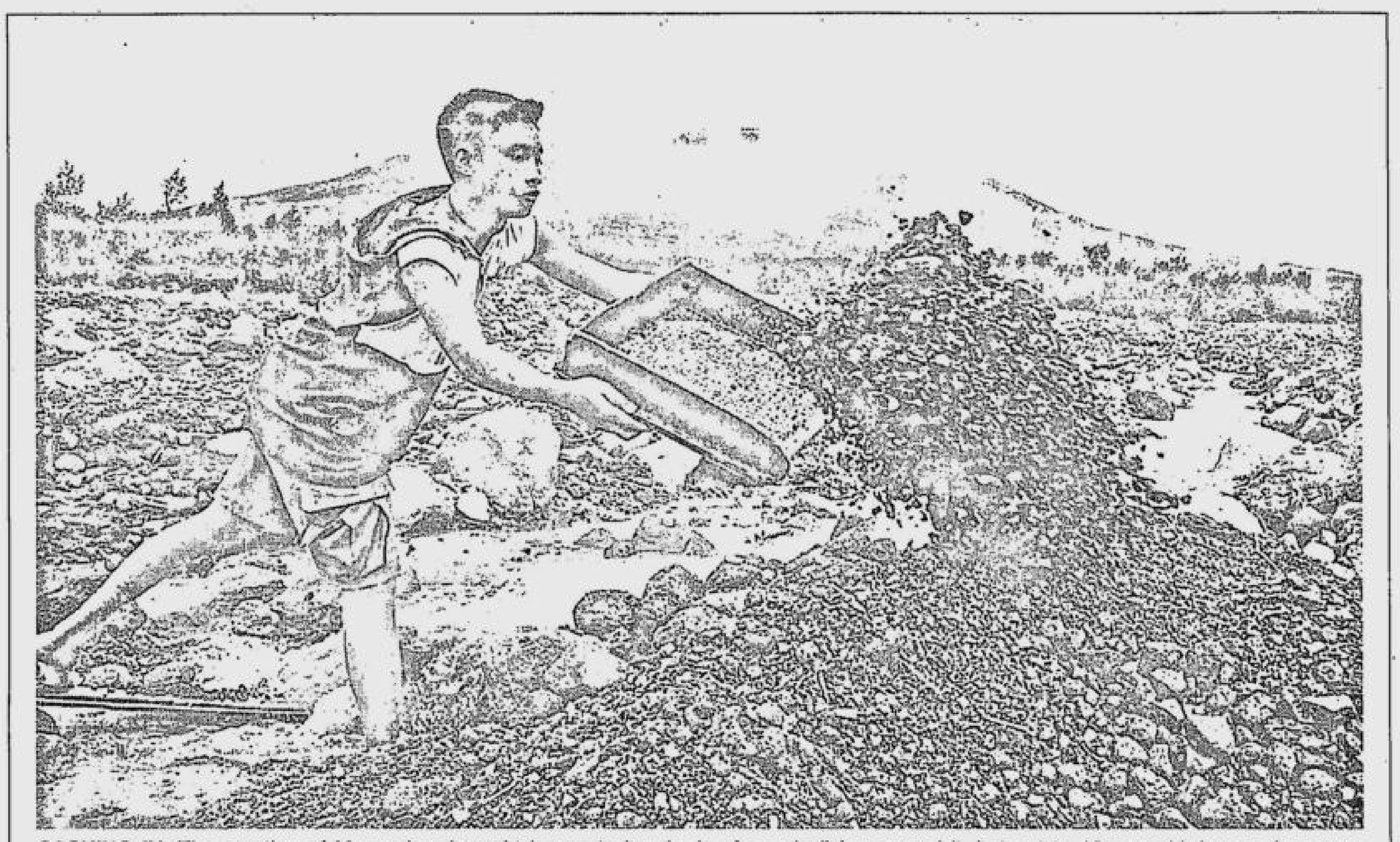
ARMM voters feel that "they are being shortchanged" when the question of whether they want to remain or get out of ARMM is not asked them, Mercado said, adding that even the Moro Islamic Liberation Front is expected to boycott the plebiscite since it was not part of the peace agreement that the government signed with the MNLF in 1996.

"With this background, we can surmise that the plebiscite will go into ignominy," Mercado said.

Manolo Cruz, Philippine Information Agency (PIA) director for Central Mindanao, said they have just begun with their information drive.

"Our campaign would be strictly educational without taking a particular stand," Cruz said.

But Mercado said he considered the PIA effort tragic for "lack of material time." ***Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



CASHING IN. The eruption of Mayon has brought losses to hundreds of people living around it, but not to 18-year-old Jayson Anonuevo who finds a living selling volcanic rocks that had settled in a river in Sto. Domingo town in Daraga, Albay. Val Handumon

Mayon evacuees allowed to return home

By Rey Nasol
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Disaster officials have agreed to allow 13,667 people who fled from the fury of Mayon Volcano to return to their homes and farms at the volcano's foot but won't lower the alert status from level 5.

The Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office reported that outside this city, 2,644 families, or 13,667 persons, had already returned to their homes.

PSWD officer Yolanda Guanzon said those who have already left the evacuation centers were from Barangays Bañadero, Matnog, Miisi, Alcala and Salvacion in Daraga town; and Masarawag, Tandarora, and Muladbucad Grande in Guinobatan town.

The Legazpi City Social Welfare and Development Office reported that 4,176 evacuees or 893 families from Barangays Pawa, Bagong Abre, Dita and San Joaquin, have also returned home.

Almost 17,000 evacuees or 3,429 families from Barangays Mabinit, Bonga, Buyuan, Matanag, and Padang, all located near the seven-kilometer extended danger zone, remain in the evacuation centers.

Provincial disaster officer Cedric Daep yesterday said 26,459 persons or 5,691 families were still holed up in 17 different evacuation shelters since Mayon erupted anew on July 26.

Phivolcs monitoring reports indicated a decline in Mayon's activity and if the trend continues in the next few days, alert level 5 may be lowered.

The 7-km extended danger zone in the southeast slope, however, will remain in effect because explosions are still possible and the public is again reminded not to venture in the 6-km radius permanent danger zone and the 7-km extended danger zone.

Authorities yesterday issued a strong warning to residents along the banks of major river channels to take the necessary precautions during heavy rainfall to be safe from lahar flows.

These areas experienced heavy rains during the past few days.

A latest Phivolcs' aerial survey revealed that all the gullies around the volcano are already fully silted as a result of the July 26 eruption that distributed pyroclastic materials almost equally around the edifice.

Phivolcs monitoring division chief Ernesto Corpuz said the survey showed that some 15 million cubic meters of volcanic materials were ejected during the July 26 episode and are deposited in the gullies earlier silted by the June 24 eruption.

"With this situation, future volcanic (materials) will very likely take new directions since there are no more gullies that will serve as defined passageways," Corpuz said.

Daep, who joined the aerial survey team, said their office and Phivolcs are going to compare the old volcanic material mapping of the June 24 eruption to the findings made after the July 26 event.

With these data, he said, they would determine the possible danger the new deposits pose to the lives and property of residents around the volcano.

"We will do a careful re-mapping to determine whether our previously identified safe areas are still safe at present," Daep told the INQUIRER.

Corpuz, on the other hand, confirmed that this city and its adjacent areas would experience occasional ashfalls as huge volumes of ash were observed deposited on the upper slopes of Mayon.

The scientists revealed their observation that lava and pyroclastic flows had already reached the boundaries of the 6-km permanent danger zone.

"Mayon has to be observed for up to two weeks to know whether it is already simmering down or not," he said.

"We need to observe a longer lull period because any error in the prediction might turn out to be very disastrous," Corpuz said in a meeting with disaster officials here.

He said about 20 to 30 million cubic meters of volcanic materials could still be emitted by Mt. Mayon in case of another eruption.

He based this computation on the average volume of 100 million cubic meters of debris that Mayon emits every eruption.

Corpuz added that Mayon could still emit some 30 million cubic meters of pyroclastic materials even as it has already spewed out some 40 million cubic meters of debris during its eruptions from February to March last year.

Freedom nears for Filipino maid jailed in Emirates

SAN AGUSTIN, Isabela—The Filipino maid jailed in the United Arab Emirates would be home by September after donors have pooled money for the $40,000 in blood money needed for her freedom.

A letter from the Philippine Embassy in the UAE sent to the family of Maryjane Ramos in Barangay Masaya Centro here said the full amount of the *diya* or blood money (about P2.1 million or 150,000 dirhams) would be completed this month.

"The campaign to raise 150,000 dirhams blood money which is payable to the victim's family was close to reaching its target. It is just a matter of a few weeks before the *diya* money will be deposited at the Ras-al-Khaimah court," Ambassador Amable Aguiluz said.

Aguiluz added that a substantial amount has been contributed by a fund-raising campaign launched in Manila by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

Ramos, 22, was jailed after she stabbed and killed Mohammad 'Ali Alshamsi, her employer, who tried to rape her on Jan. 23, 1999.

Ramos' husband, Johnny, said they were overjoyed when they received the news from the Philippine Embassy in UAE.

"We are very . . . grateful for the outpour of help. We are crying due to happiness," he said. "*Sapay koma ta agtultuloyton ti suertemi* (I hope our luck will continue)."

He also thanked President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband, First Gentleman Arroyo, for bankrolling the fund raising campaign to raise the blood money.

Detained at the Mamoorah Central Jail in the UAE since her arrest on Jan. 24, 1999, Ramos has already served her two-year prison sentence imposed by a UAE court.

An Islamic court in Ras Al-Khaimah, a member of the United Arab Emirates federation, earlier acquitted Ramos.

The court ruling said Ramos, aged 20 then and was on her first day of work in the UAE, had acted in self-defense when she stabbed her drunken employer with a kitchen knife. Her employer's relatives filed an appeal and Ramos' acquittal was overturned. Ramos was then asked to pay blood money in exchange for her freedom.

Ramos' son, John Mar, 5, said he was aware of his mother's imminent release from jail.

He said he wanted a toy truck or a toy gun from his mother as a *pasalubong* when she returns to the country.

"*Trak-trak koma wenno palpaltog*, Tito (A toy truck or a toy gun, Uncle)," the boy, who was two years old when his mother left to work abroad, told this correspondent.

"I am very happy but the happiest is my son. He has not seen her for years," Johnny said.

He said he learned from news reports that First Gentleman Arroyo bankrolled the fund raising campaign for his wife's blood money.

Arroyo, reports said, first learned about the need for blood money while meeting with officials of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration in Baguio City in June.

"*Nasayaat unay isuna. Utang ko a naimbag a nakem daytoy* (He is so good. This will be my debt of gratitude to him)," Johnny said. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Isabela officials back coal project after lull

ILAGAN, Isabela—After almost a year of lull, provincial officials are again pushing for the implementation of a controversial coal-mining project in Isabela.

Vice Gov. Santiago Respicio, during the provincial board session, said provincial officials would coordinate with the Philippine National Oil Corp. and the Department of Energy for the resumption of the project in at least 23 villages in Cauayan, Naguilian and Benito Soliven towns.

He said the projects would give jobs to casual workers retrenched by the provincial government.

The 23 villages in the three towns were found to be rich in lignite deposits and carbon reserves.

A PNOC and DOE study showed that at least 82.6 billion tons of lignite deposits and 78.6 cubic meters of carbon reserves were found in the 23 villages.

The project's component is a 20-megawatt coal-fired thermal power plant, which would be financed by foreign and domestic investors. At least 1,000 workers will be hired for its construction.

Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. said he got positive responses from Manila businessmen when he offered investment opportunities for the coal-fired power plant in the province.

Dy said the project would reduce by a peso the P8 per kilowatt-hour (kwh) power rate for business establishments in the province and also give a steady supply of electricity in the remote villages.

Board members Manuel Binag and Antonio Ladera have authored a resolution supporting the coal-fired thermal plant. Energy committee members are studying documents about the project prior to endorsing it.

Melchor Batalla, Danggayan dagiti Mannalon ti Isabela president, said they were dismayed over the decision of Isabela officials to push for the project despite opposition from farmers' and religious groups.

"Many farmers will surely have no more land to till in the future if the project will push through," he said.

Non-government studies show that coal mining will destroy agricultural land in the province, Batalla said. He said it would not be easy to restore the land after the coal exploration. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

PNP taps provinces for more Manila cops

THE PHILIPPINE National Police is deploying up to 1,500 policemen from the provinces to Metro Manila to prove that it was sincere in solving crime "beyond cosmetic surgery," according to PNP chief Leandro Mendoza.

In a statement, Mendoza said the people should stop worrying that the PNP would provide mere statistics to eradicate crime because it was worried about its image.

"Winning the public trust goes beyond cosmetic surgery," Mendoza said.

But he admitted that problems in the police system and its image as an institution has prevented the police force from effectively winning the people's trust.

He won't elaborate.

He said police officers should be first proud of themselves before they could expect the public to be proud of the national police force.

"In the last several decades, the PNP had been a favorite whipping boy of a highly critical media. This contributed to the fast decline of trust by the people on the police," he pointed out.

He said, however, that the PNP under his watch recognizes this problem and is trying to recover from the image problem through real crime solution.

He said recognizing that there was a problem was the first step in improving police work.

"The more important part is the step we should take to bring back the glory of the police forces," he said.

The PNP recently got a P1 billion supplemental budget approved by President Macapagal for the purchase of equipment, uniforms and to pay for increases in salaries.

According to Gen. Rex Piad, PNP deputy director general, the PNP asked for a P1.5 billion supplemental budget when Mendoza briefed the President on the PNP's responses to criminality.

"The P1 billion will go a long way," the statement quoted Piad as saying, adding that the President's gesture of support sends the correct signal to policemen that the national government is determined to support the mission of the police.

This week, about 500 young officers from the regions were deployed to man Manila streets.

The objective reinforce forces in Metro Manila with young and idealistic police officers who will provide visibility in the streets like what is being done in developed countries like Hong Kong.

"In three months, a total of 1,500 young officers will (be on) Manila streets," Mendoza said.

'WHY IMPORT RICE?'

Rice research body's role in RP agriculture questioned

By Romulo Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau.

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—A Laguna congressman has expressed doubts that the International Rice Research Institute's (IRRI) sophisticated farming technology is really helping promote food security.

Rep. Joaquin Chipeco Jr. (2nd District, Laguna) questioned whether IRRI, the Los Baños-based international research institution, was "catering to the needs of our countrymen or only being used by foreign countries (represented by agro-chemical transnational corporations)."

The congressman asked why the Philippines keeps on importing rice when the country is supposed to be the "kitchen."

"It is here that students from here and abroad are being trained. Different improved and nutritious varieties of rice are being prepared here but why in the end are we the ones importing from other rice-producing nations?"

Among the facilities IRRI management showed to President Macapagal-Arroyo who visited the institute last Thursday was the gene bank, the only state-of-the-art facility in the world that is calamity-proof and contains 85,000 rice varieties.

Chipeco observed that many students from other countries come here to be trained by the Filipino scientists and yet their countries are the ones exporting rice to the Philippines and not the other way around.

"I guess we need to do something about this (irony). This must be changed because all these good varieties are supposed to be prepared here. We must benefit from all these," Chipeco said.

Chipeco also would like to look into the complaints of militant farmers who claim that IRRI was not really serving the needs of the poor Filipinos but only those of transnational corporations which earn tremendous profits out of Third World countries like the Philippines.

An IRRI report written by professor Gelia Castillo and Dr. David Dawe justified the Philippines' constant importation of rice from other countries.

"The Philippines has good reasons for importing rice, even as many of its neighbors achieve self-sufficiency," it said.

Among the reasons given were:

- The Philippines has only 0.075 hectares of arable land area per capita, less than nearly all of its large neighbors;
- Crop land in the Philippines is considerably more diversified than in many of its neighbors; and
- The Philippines uses much less labor to grow rice than many of its neighbors

RP-MILF ceasefire deal snagged

(From page A1)

said. "We just cannot get it ready yet."

A ballroom had been set up for the ceremony—to have been presided over by Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar—complete with food, drink and a banner proclaiming the signing of the agreement.

"It was the Malaysian officials who said, 'Today,'" Murad said.

"We said, 'Maybe today.' We are still discussing and will continue discussing until tomorrow. There is no fixed schedule in the first place."

Murad declined to give details on what held up the talks, saying: "I don't want to preempt my discussion."

The talks are aimed at putting details into a broad accord reached in June in Libya that calls for a ceasefire and economic development in Mindanao.

The MILF has insisted that government forces agree to pull back from rebel camps they have captured. It was unclear if that objective had been met in the talks.

Unity agreement

On Friday, the MILF reached a so-called unity agreement with the larger Moro National Liberation Front, ending more than two decades of rivalry between the two groups.

In 1978, the 12,500-strong MILF split from the MNLF that signed a peace accord with Manila in 1995. The MNLF founder and chair, Nur Misuari, is the governor of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao.

The groups say the pact will boost their campaign for more autonomy. A plebiscite has been scheduled on Aug. 14 to ask the Mindanao electorate whether they want to join the autonomous region.

The government hopes that unity among the Moro rebels will enable them to speak with one voice and make it easier to achieve peace in Mindanao.

MORE soldiers patrol the roads in Lamitan as the military expresses confidence of rescuing an American missionary couple and 19 other Filipino hostages from the clutches of the Abu Sayyaf. REUTERS

A ceasefire with the MILF will leave only the Abu Sayyaf still fighting for a separate Muslim state. Ms Macapagal refuses to negotiate with the group, characterizing them as bandits.

Soldiers rescued 13 hostages from Abu Sayyaf gunmen on Sunday. The bandits had beheaded 10 captives in a three-day spree of bloodshed and abduction.

A separate Abu Sayyaf faction is still holding more than 20 other hostages, including Americans.

Mahathir praised

On the eve of her visit, Ms Macapagal also heaped praise on Mahathir for his strong stand against currency speculators during the Asian financial crisis.

"He is my model of a leader," Ms Macapagal told the New Straits Times.

Mahathir stopped the rot in the Malaysian ringgit by ignoring International Monetary Fund prescriptions and pegging the currency at 3.8 to the US dollar.

Mahathir also introduced capital controls in late 1998. Many of the controls have been removed, but the ringgit is still fixed at 3.8 to the dollar.

"We are determined to tackle currency speculation," Ms Macapagal said, repeating her belief that the peso is undervalued.

"It should be about P50 against the US dollar, and we believe we can achieve it soon," she said.

On Friday, Ms Macapagal said that the level could be reached by yearend. The peso closed at 53.22 to the dollar on Monday compared with 53.45 on Friday.

On Sunday, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said he was considering raising by two percentage points the banks' reserve requirements to mop up excess liquidity and take pressure off the peso.

During the interview with the New Straits Times, Ms Macapagal hinted at other government measures to support the peso.

"On imposing tightening control like foreign exchange controls practiced in Malaysia, we have inventory of policies," she said without elaborating on what measures might be taken.

The government has long maintained that it will not impose capital controls to defend the peso.

When the peso fell to a six-month low of 54.34 to the dollar last month, Buenaventura said that such a move was not an option.

Ms Macapagal herself said in her State of the Nation Address on July 23 that the peso would be freely traded.

But she added that she would support any move by the central bank to curb speculation.

Currency deal

In the interview, Ms Macapagal also expressed support for Mahathir's suggestion that the 10 member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) should use their own currencies for trade transactions between themselves.

"Yes, that is a good idea. It lessens the demand for the US dollar," Ms Macapagal said, but she added it was not on the agenda for her talks with the Malaysian leader.

She said the main purpose of her visit was to thank Malaysia for its help in Manila's peace talks with the MILF.

Ms Macapagal said she would also invite Malaysian businessmen to invest in oil palm cultivation in Mindanao.

The visit to Malaysia will be Ms Macapagal's first foreign trip since she took over the presidency from ousted leader Joseph Estrada in January. *Reports by AP, AFP and Reuters*

Garcia heirs score property developer

(From page A1)

The former President's home in Quezon City was demolished to make way for the "El Jardin del Presidente," a condominium complex of three buildings. The penthouse of one building would house a museum for Garcia's memorabilia.

But four years after the project started, Garcia's heirs and real estate developer Megaworld Properties are reportedly feuding because the project remains unfinished.

Former defense undersecretary Fernando C. Campos, Garcia's son-in-law and president of Leonila (named after the former first lady) Realty and Development Corporation (LRDC), blames Megaworld for the costly delays. Campos also said that the real estate firm had not been truthful in its dealings with his firm.

But Luke Tan, Megaworld's director of investor relations, denied there was any problem with the project. And if there were any such problems, they had been settled a few months ago.

But Garcia's heirs claim that because of the delay in the construction, they are now at a loss where to house the late President's memorabilia. The proposed museum is unfinished though it is scheduled to be inaugurated on Nov. 4, Garcia's 103rd birth anniversary.

The deal

LRDC and Megaworld entered into a joint venture agreement in 1997 to develop the 4,000-square-meter Garcia property on Sgt. Esguerra Street and Bohol Avenue in Quezon City into a condominium complex.

As part of the deal, the Garcia heirs would own several of the condo units.

The heirs planned to convert some of their units into commercial space and a penthouse was reserved for a museum for the Garcia memorabilia. One building was also to be named after Garcia, who was the president from 1956 to 1961.

But the condo units turned over by Megaworld to LRDC were allegedly defective. Megaworld also allegedly used the wrong project specifications that jacked up the cost of the condo building to P20 million.

Campos said he discovered that the mezzanine floors of the units that the family intended to turn into commercial space were too low.

He appealed to the Quezon City Engineer's Office, and the city's engineers agreed with him. He also pointed out that a reinforced concrete beam on one of the gazebos also posed a danger.

The engineer's office ordered that the mezzanine be removed among other things.

New structure

"What was lost to them has been replaced," Luke Tan told the INQUIRER. Megaworld is now building a two-story structure on an adjacent lot owned by Campos.

"We gave the plans of the building to them. And they had approved it. We already signed an agreement on that. What is causing the delay is that they wanted additions to the structure like another floor. That is under study because it will mean more costings," Tan explained.

The two parties met on Sept.25 and Nov. 28 last year to try to settle the problem, Campos said. However, they did not reach an agreement on the proposed museum, whose ceiling also not high enough, either, to accommodate all the memorabilia of the late President, Campos said.

Campos said his firm's engineers discovered that Megaworld's specifications for the LRDC building were not suitable for the project's projected cost.

He said that with Megaworld's specifications, the building cost jumped from P10,000 to P20,000 to P50,000 per sq. m.

Campos said he again and again tried to talk to Tan about these problems. But unlike during the two parties' initial negotiations, Tan sent his subordinates to talk to Campos.

Changes

But Tan claimed that the Garcia heirs only recently wanted to make changes in the museum like its layout and the materials used. "They wanted to make it nicer," Tan said.

Though the penthouse for the museum is built, the interiors are going to undergo alterations. Tan said it is now bidding out the interior work. He estimated it would take a year and a half to complete the museum interior.

Stonewalling?

For his part, Campos said he tried several times to discuss the problem personally with Megaworld president Andrew Tan but his requests for an appointment remained unanswered.

"I've been insisting that this problem should be solved as soon as possible but they're stonewalling it," Campos told the INQUIRER.

"I'm appealing to them. I just want them to negotiate seriously," he added.

Campos said LRDC signed the joint venture agreement with Megaworld on Feb. 17, 1997. Megaworld controlled a majority (70 percent) of the venture but LRDC share was later further reduced to 25.57 percent, Campos said.

He said the Garcia museum would also serve as a meeting place for the Bohol Association, and as residence of the surviving members of the late President's family.

Campos and Garcia's other heirs are hard-pressed for time as the Malacañang Heritage Foundation is set to deliver all of the late President's papers and other souvenirs of his tenure.

The Bohol Association of Metro Manila (Bammi) is also anxious about the project.

"May we know about the details of this unfortunate series of incidents? The more than 200,000 Boholanos in Metro Manila and its environs will not take this sitting down," Bernardo R. Calibo, Bammi president, said in a letter to Campos.

Then Vice President Garcia succeeded President Ramon Magsaysay when he died in a plane crash in 1957. He lost his election bid in 1961 against Diosdado Macapagal.

It's a real rat race . . .

(From page A1)

suffer from it.

In fact, the resurgence of rats had become such a big problem in New York City that officials even held a Rat Summit and appointed a rodent task force.

In Chicago, sightings of the furry critters have shot up by more than 10,000.

And a rat exterminator in Houston even witnessed a police officer with a loaded pistol chasing a rat through his house.

All across urban America, rats are scurrying in larger numbers and gnawing at the nerves of city dwellers, prompting federal disease specialists to seek new solutions.

Health experts say the problem can be traced to a decision two decades ago to reduce federal funding for rodent control, and more recently to the ever-tightening city government budgets.

"The resurgence of the problem in recent years is connected to cities having to make hard choices about what their priorities are," said Jerry Hershovitz of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP) in Atlanta.

"As a result, urban rat control in many communities is approached on a complaint-oriented basis, and that will not solve the problem," he said.

Rats are more than a nuisance.

During the 14th century, they helped spread the bubonic plague through Europe. And more recently they have been known to carry diseases such as typhus or leptospirosis, a potentially fatal bacterial illness.

"A mouse in your house or a rat—they can potentially kill you," said Robert Corrigan, a rodent specialist. "We are competing on this earth with rats."

There's little doubt about the public's concern.

In Boston, complaints are up by 40 percent. Rat sightings in Chicago increased from 22,431 in July 2000 to 33,134 last month. And New York exterminations and rat inspections grew by about 19,600 between July 1999 and June 2001.

Ken Gray, a pest exterminator in Houston, said people don't realize their habits are the root of the problem. Instead, he said, people call 911 for rat help, kill rodents with shotguns and lock themselves in rooms.

Gray said he even saw a policeman chase a rat around his house with a gun.

"Even our fearless fighters are frightened of the little men in gray suits," he said.

All the sun and surf doesn't help in the West Coast, where a different breed of rat thrives on the warm weather.

"We have our own problems with these little critters," lamented Arturo Aguirre of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

Recognizing the infestations is easy; finding solutions is a bit more challenging.

Washington, D.C. officials have stepped up their efforts, putting baits in 2,000 premises, inspecting nearly 5,000 homes and issuing new rat-proof garbage cans.

They even created a Bureau of Community Hygiene to address the critter crisis.

"You are never going to kill all the rats. But to keep them under control, you need a viable program that can be sustained over the years," said Maurice Knuckles, rodent control program supervisor for the capital city.

New York City held a Rat Summit last November where pest control experts met with city officials to devise solutions. The city also set up a rat control task force last July.

Among the solutions: new trash compactors, better education of restaurant owners about trash containers and more tickets and fines for owners who don't follow sanitation guidelines.

Philadelphia, meanwhile, is cited by some as a model.

It has made rat control a priority and the number of complaints has held steady between 8,000 and 10,000 per year.

There is no central census of rat populations, but CDC has grown concerned enough to intervene with a new program that will emphasize prevention and special attention to crowded and deteriorating neighborhoods.

In September, the center will award two cities about $250,000 each to come up with a rodent control model that state and local agencies can follow.

"The comprehensive approach to the problem is that you eliminate food, water and harborage that allow rats to survive," CDC's Hershovitz explained.

"They will either die or migrate to another neighborhood that has the conditions to support them." *AP*

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Sun & Sol

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

HAD a walk in the village yesterday. Did it basically for exercise. Had not had one since I fell ill nearly three months ago. LJM (that's Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc for you) noticed the change. "You lost weight," she said. "Are you on a diet? Less rice, maybe?"

She didn't know I got sick.

"Oh," she said. "Sad to hear that. But at least you are slimmer now."

That was the "better part" of it. You lost weight because you got sick.

Dearest Sol Juvida was with me yesterday. I had on my walking shoes; she had on her slippers.

I wondered aloud that she might trip.

"These are high-heeled slippers, so don't worry," she said. "The soles are soft, but firm."

We walked under overcast skies. I had a bamboo cane—for protection against dogs. LJM was attacked by a dalmatian a while back while she was doing her morning exercise: walking.

I had a little debate with Sol Juvida before we had our walk yesterday.

"Why don't we just play basketball," she said. "We have not shot basketballs for months."

Am not ready for that yet.

"Let's play billiards then," she said.

"OK," I said. "But I need to walk first. Then play billiards next."

She relented.

We walked toward the school of Mayo, the four-year-old joy in the house. The school is one block away from the house.

"Don't even try to go look for him," I said. "You might disturb his concentration."

We walked with bent knees as we passed by Mayo's school. After a few minutes, we were set to turn left to another street going farther from the house when the sun popped out of the clouds.

"It's hot," she said, retreating under the shade of a large gmelina tree. "Let's go home."

When we were just steps away from home, she said: "Let's walk on. I can see that the chapel's open. Let's go inside."

But the village chapel's under renovation.

"Let's walk by the churchyard anyways and then make a U-turn for home," she said.

When we got home, I reminded her about our billiards game.

"Tomorrow *na lang*," she said. "The sun burnt my nape."

No debate there.

Rivera grabs Hardcourt Hero accolade

INJURIES last year may have slowed down Ralph Rivera but the former Pangasinan standout is now fast recovering his old form as a member of the LBC Batangas Blades in the ongoing MBA hostilities.

Rivera also had a quiet comeback with the Blades during the team's early games in the eliminations as he played behind the shadows of his more illustrious teammates like Rommel Adducul, Eddie Laure and Alex Compton.

But in the latter part of the elims, Rivera, a former member of the RP-Youth and RP-Men's teams during his amateur days, showed flashes of brilliance.

In the Blades' last game against the Nueva Ecija Patriots, Rivera tallied 13 points, two rebounds and a steal to earn the Hardcourt Hero award from the MBA Press Corps.

"Well, everybody knows that lately our team has been plagued by illness and injuries. *Napakalaking tulong talaga para sa* team *'yung pagbabalik ng dating laro ni* Ralph *kasi nabibigyan ng pagkakataon na makapagpahinga yung mga* teammates *nyang merong mga* minor injuries in preparation for the playoffs," said Blades coach Nash Racela, referring to the semifinal round where they are set to meet the winner in the knockout game between Laguna and defending champion Andok's San Juan Knights tomorrow.

Rivera bested teammates Laure, Adducul and Compton for the award and other candidates like Jonathan de Guzman of the Patriots, Peter June Simon and Romy de la Rosa of the Davao Eagles, Knights Raffi Reavis, Roy Lura of Cebuana Lhuillier Gems and John Ferriols of the Negros Slashers.

This was also the third consecutive week that a player from only one team was named as the week's Hardourt Hero after his teammates Adducul and Jeff Sanders shared the award during the season's eighth week and Compton got his second Hardcourt Hero tag the following week.

Stags use 8 treys to wallop Knights

GAMES THURSDAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
12nn—Mapua vs San Beda (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—JRC vs St. Benilde

By June Navarro

SAN Sebastian College buried Letran with an array of triples at crunchtime to post a clinical 75-63 victory yesterday in the NCAA varsity basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Spitfire Christian Coronel knocked in the last two of his team's eight treys as the Stags went on to fortify their claim to solo second spot with a 5-2 win-loss record.

Coronel's back-to-back triples in the fading moments proved enough to silence the delirious Letran gallery after the Knights embarked on a dazzling run at the start of the fourth period.

Ismael Junio and Harold Sta. Cruz spearheaded that attack as the Knights trimmed a sizeable 61-48 lead to a 66-60 edge, barely four minutes left in the game.

The Stags, however, showed half-court patience, passing the ball around in an effort to break the zone that allowed Coronel to drain shots way above the arc.

Hope suddenly evaporated as the Knights refused to pose a measure of challenge that sealed their fourth setback against three wins.

In the other seniors' match, University of Perpetual Help-Rizal nipped host Philippine Christian University, 64-62 to move to solo third at 4-3. The Dolphins dropped to 2-5.

Scores:

SAN SEBASTIAN 75—Macapagal 20, Coronel 14, Reguerra 12, Moore 7, Falcasantos 7, De Leon 6, Uy 4, Mercado 3, Legarde 2, Najorda 0.

LETRAN 63—Enrile 15, Junio 14, Sta. Cruz 14, Ayo 8, Sillona 6, Misolas 3, Moreno 2, Syhongpan 0.

Quarters: 20-18, 37-30, 61-46, 75-63.

32nd WNCAA season starts

THE 32ND season of the Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association (WNCAA) opened with a bang over the weekend amid colorful opening rites capped by a heavy five-game schedule in basketball.

Among the highlights of the hour-long opening rites were the traditional parade of athletes and their respective muses and special presentations by host school Miriam College.

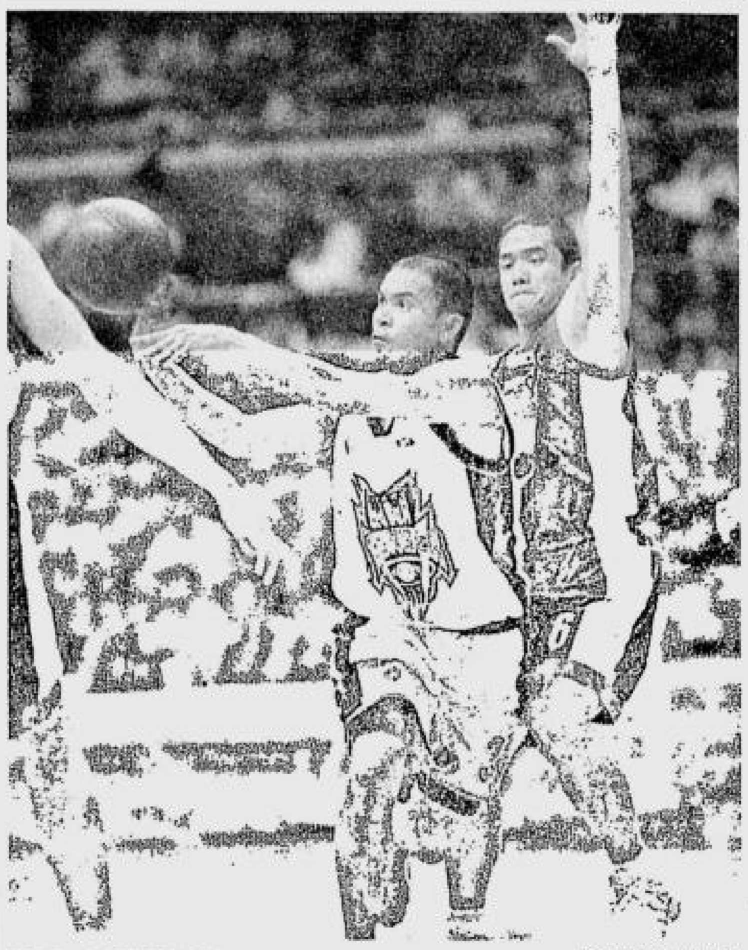
Special guests included Commission on Higher Education (CHED) chair Esther Garcia and Pasig City Mayor Soledad Eusebio.

In one of the most highly anticipated events of the day, Tracy Abad, a student at the Assumption College in Makati, bested 10 other candidates to emerge as this year's Ms WNCAA.

Samantha Galvez of St. Benedict's College was adjudged as the first runnerup, while Asia Garcia of St. Scholastica's College-Manila was second runnerup.

The Ms WNCAA pre-pageant was held Aug. 1 at the St. Ehrentrudis Hall of the St. Scholastica's College.

Later, the College of St. Benilde started its title-retention bid on a high note as it beat last year's second placer Lyceum of the Philippines, 52-41.



ROMY HOMILLADA

PBA ACTION

Jimwell Torion of Red Bull (left) passes the ball as Boyet Fernandez of Purefoods applies pressure during their PBA Commissiner's Cup tussle Sunday night at the Araneta Coliseum. Purefoods won, 77-75, to arrange a deciding fifth game in their semifinal series. In the other semis duel, Alaska beat San Miguel Beer, 98-91, in overtime to also force a rubber match tomorrow.

Super karting championship Sunday

THE SHELL Super Karting Championships will be held at the Batangas Racing Circuit for the second straight month this Sunday, Aug. 12, with Jess Garcia, Lee Bumgarner and Tyson Sy seeking to repeat their smashing victories in the previous leg.

Garcia, who made a successful comeback with an impressive victory in the sixth leg last July 22, tries to duplicate the feat against perennial rivals Jeff Cabalinan, Pepon Marave, Manuel Mayo, Mon Tanjuatco and defending champion Philip Alvendia.

The Cebu-based Garcia defeated Cabalinan and Marave in the action-packed sixth leg and a repeat victory this weekend will put him in strong contention for the prestigious "Karter of the Year" award in this annual series organized by the Carmona Circuit Phils. in cooperation with Shell Helix, Shell Velocity and Shell Citibank Mastercard.

Cabalinan is enjoying a 61-point lead over Marave in the overall standings, 237-171, while Garcia and Mayo are tied for third to fourth places with 156 points in the event also sponsored by Coca-Cola, Bridgestone, Match Box/Hot Wheels, Nokia, Demvel's Enterprises and Eastway Racing.

Bumgarner is also slightly favored to clinch his second straight win in the Demvel's-sponsored Formula 125 and Rotax Challenge against a tough field, which include Mike Francisco, Bert Neuhof, Mike Sy and last year's PSA motorsports awardee Angelo Barretto.

Bumgarner has 203 points against Francisco's 181 points and Neuhof's 179 points.

4WD tourney Aug. 11

THE CHAMPIONSHIP leg OF Tom's sports mini 4WD Challenge 2001, a technical/open race, will be held at Robinson's Place-Manila on Aug. 11.

The race will start at 10 a.m. Mini 4WD enthusiasts are invited to participate in this championship event presented by Bench and Norkis Yamaha, brought to you b Robinsons Place Manila, Joey 92.3,939KCFM and Channel V.

As much as P20,000 in cash and scooters will be at stake as championship prizes.

For details, contact Tom' Sports International Corporation, 352 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City or call events director, Mae Abasolo at 534-0455-56 or 534-1457 or E-mail at tomssports@skyinet.net

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Pernice rules Int'l

CASTLE ROCK, Colorado—Tom Pernice Jr. won his second career PGA Tour title, steadying himself after back-to-back bogeys on the back nine to win The International on Sunday.

In a tournament that traditionally features low scores and a rapid accumulation of points on the final day, the leaders merely survived.

Pernice, the second- and third-round leader, added just a point to his total in the final round, finishing with 34 points for a 1-point victory.

Chris Riley birdied three holes on the back nine to finish at 33, under the modified Stableford scoring system.

Vijay Singh tied with Chris DiMarco and defending champion Ernie Els at 32. *AP*

It's Colin by 1

LODDEKOPINGE, Sweden—Colin Montgomerie finished bogey-bogey, but it was enough for a one-shot victory Sunday over defending champion Lee Westwood and Ian Poulter in the Scandinavian Masters. Montgomerie's record third Scandinavian triumph earned him a spot on Europe's Ryder Cup team that will face defending champion United States at the Belfry in England on Sept. 28-30.

Pak bags 3rd major

SUNNINGDALE, England—Annika Sorenstam 5, Se Ri Pak 4, Karrie Webb 2. Not scores on a golf card. Titles won this season on the LPGA Tour by the three dominant players in women's golf.

They also hold all four majors between them in a shut out of the American stars.

Pak's standout victory at the Women's British Open on Sunday—closing with a 66—was the third major title of her developing career. *AP*

SPORTSWATCH

Ateneo, Xavier lead field

DEFENDING champions Ateneo and Xavier School posted lopsided victories last Sunday to show the way in the Milo Best Center's SBP/Passerelle basketball tournament at the Xavier courts in San Juan. The Ateneans crushed JASMS, 85-18, for its third straight Group A win as it stepped up its title-retention drive in SBP (Small Baskeeters Philippines). Reigning Passerelle titlist Xavier clobbered De La Salle Zobel, 70-31, also for its third victory in a row in Group A. Ateneo and Don Bosco Makati scored contrasting victories in two other Passerelle contests to share the Group B lead at 3-0. Ateneo overwhelmed Marist, 80-36, but DB Makati had to struggle past Flos Carmeli, 47-42. Lourdes School (Mandaluyong) routed DB Mandaluyong, 73-53, and St. Anthony School downed Lourdes (QC), 64-55, in the other passerelle games.

Greene, Jones dominating

EDMONTON, Alberta—Maurice Greene is a step closer toward his goal of being recognized as the greatest sprinter ever. On Monday, Marion Jones gets her chance. The pair continued a US domination of the 100 meters at the World Championships on a day when East Europeans won three of the four gold medals. Greene led a US sweep of the 100 for his third consecutive world title, matching the exploits of Carl Lewis. Greene's time of 9.82 seconds was the third-fastest in history, and he also owns the two faster ones—his world record of 9.79 and 9.80, both set in 1999. Earlier, Jones won her first two heats of the women's 100 and predicted an even better showing in Monday's semifinals and finals. Her 10.93 in the first round tied the best any rival has run this year and was way off the 10.84 she ran in Paris last month. *AP*

Williams rips Seles, 6-2, 6-3

CARLSBAD, California—Firing 13 aces at speeds up to 182 kph (113 mph), Venus Williams overpowered Monica Seles 6-2, 6-3 on Sunday to win the Acura Classic for the second straight year. Williams extended her domination of Seles to 6-0 in their first meeting since Williams won their semifinal in the Sydney Olympics en route to the gold medal. She beat Seles in three sets last year at La Costa Resort. Williams served four love games, including one she closed out with aces of 182 and 179 kph (113 and 111 mph) to take a 5-2 lead in the second set. *AP*

Romanian upstages Rafter

MONTREAL—Andrei Pavel of Romania needed only one service break to upset Patrick Rafter of Australia in three sets Sunday in the final of the Tennis Masters Series-Canada. "This is the highest by far for me," said Pavel after his 7-6 (3), 2-6, 6-3 victory over the two-time U.S. Open champion at du Maurier Stadium. Pavel earned $400,000 in the biggest victory of his 11-year career while Rafter, who won the Canadian tournament in 1998 in Toronto, earned $210,000. *AP*

Ian fires caddie

LODDEKOPINGE, Sweden—Ian Woosnam fired his caddie Miles Byrne on Sunday for oversleeping and not showing up for the final round in the Scandinavian Masters.

Only two weeks ago, Byrne was blamed for Woosnam having too many clubs in his bag during the final round of the British Open.

Woosnam nearly aced the opening hole at Royal Lytham & St. Annes, but discovered an extra club in his bag that turned a tap-in into a devastating bogey.

The former (U.S.) Masters champion was given a two-stroke penalty. Players with more than 14 clubs in the bag are penalized two strokes per hole.

Woosnam, who shared third in the British Open, one shot behind Niclas Fasth of Sweden and four behind winner David Duval, gave Byrne a second chance after the British Open incident.

When Woosnam teed off at 7:15 a.m. local time Sunday there was no sign of Byrne.

Local caddiemaster Tommy Strand agreed to carry Woosnam's bag on short notice, missing his breakfast. It worked well. *AP*

Indians score 2 records

CLEVELAND—The Cleveland Indians tied a major league record and became the first team in 76 years to overcome a 12-run deficit to win Sunday, defeating the Seattle Mariners, 15-14, in 11 innings. Jolbert Cabrera's broken-bat, one-out single in the 11th, the 40th hit of the game, scored Kenny Lofton from second with the winning run to end the 4-hour, 11-minute game. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Checkmate registration begins

REGISTRATION is now open for the fifth series of Milo Checkmate Saturday clinic at the PSC canteen inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Vito Cruz, Manila, and 2/F Center Mall, Greenhills Shopping Center. Interested parties for the event slated Aug. 11-Sept. 30 may also call tel. 826-8560 for details.

Elma squeezed into SEAG team

BY JUNE NAVARRO

SPORTS officials yesterday delayed the announcement of the final composition of the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games-bound national team but nevertheless revealed the inclusion of Elma Muros-Posadas, the meet's reigning long jump queen.

Muros-Posadas qualified for the national squad after leaping 6.16 meters in a performance trial at the Rizal Memorial Stadium last Saturday.

A SEA Games veteran since 1981, the 33-year-old Muros-Posadas bested her supposed heir apparent, Maristela Torres, who leapt no more than 6.12 meters.

Muros-Posadas will join Lerma Bulauitan in the event where the pride of Magdiwang, Bohol, had won eight gold medals since the 1983 Singapore edition.

She will also be entered in the heptathlon and 400 hurdles to shore up the gold medal chances of the 313 qualified members of the RP delegation.

Muros-Posadas also owns the Games record of 6.52 she set during the Kuala Lumpur SEAG in 1989 and the Philippine mark of 6.56 in the long jump.

"I don't want to predict but I'll try to improve the record that I registered in Malaysia," said the nostalgic Muros-Posadas in Tagalog.

For years, she consistently won and competed in the long jump, missing the gold only in the 1987 Jakarta games.

In the 1999 Brunei edition, Muros-Posadas became the lone bet in athletics to win a gold after making 6.34m on her final jump.

Meanwhile, the joint Philippine Sports Commission-Philippine Olympic Committee SEAG Task Force said it would announce the composition of the national team not later this week.

Late last night, the task force tackled the appeal of several national sports associations for the inclusion of 42 more aspirants to beef up the 313-strong RP contingent.

The deadline for the final submission of entries will be on Aug. 11.

MUROS

JVC badminton sure to feature Indon, China bets

INDONESIA and China are set to field world-class athletes in the $150,000 JVC Asian Badminton Championships set for Aug. 22-26 at the Philsports Arena.

Both countries are entered in all five divisions during the five-day series.

Taufik Hidayat, the defending champion in men's singles, leads the Indonesian squad which will also include ladies singles standouts Ellen Angelina and Atu Rosalina and the reigning men's champion pair of Tony Gunawan and Halim Heryanto. Gunawan and Heryanto won the Sydney Olympics gold medal.

Indonesia, the perennial world badminton champion, bagged three of the five titles last year, including the mixed doubles crown, which Bambang Suprianto and Minarti Timur have vowed to retain this year.

Xie Xinfang, who rallied from a set down to beat Angelina for the ladies singles plum last year, will not be around to defend her title

But China will be banking on Zhang Ning, Dong Fang, Hu ting and Tang Chunyue in ladies play.

The men's singles champion will pocket $11,000, the ladies winner $7,500.

Up for grabs in the men's doubles is $13,000. Both the ladies doubles and the mixed doubles offer $7,500 each to the champions.

Army, Spring Oil seek finals slot

GAMES TODAY
3 p.m.—Hub Net Café vs Wang's
4:30 p.m.—Army vs Spring Cooking Oil

ARMY toppled Philippine Maritime Institute, 84-74, last Saturday to earn a semifinal meeting with Spring Cooking Oil in the Spiceland-NBC Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament at Makati Coliseum.

National shooter Nathaniel Padilla's Spring cagers meet the Armymen at 4:30 p.m. today needing only a victory to make it to the finals.

Hub Net Café whipped Konica (Nueva), 79-65, in the other game Saturday to arrange a semifinal showdown with Wang's Ball Club at 3 o'clock today.

Like Spring, Wang's has a twice-to-beat advantage in the semis of the tourney sponsored by Pisong Asin, Spring Margarine, Tanduay Distillery, Red Bull, SMB, Ginebra San Miguel, Mobiline, Shell, Purefoods, Sta. Lucia Realty, Pop Cola and Alaska and supported by Milo.

First Game

Hub Net Café 79—Gragasin 17, Constantino 17, Alcaraz 12, Mike Piodo 8, Fran 6, Evangelista 6, Gican 5, Ramos 4, Caguco 2, Valdez 2, Mart Piodo 0, Brinas 0.

Konica 65—Lomboy 29, Mopera 15, Dayrit 11, Nobleza 8, Epil 2, Lopez 0, Lana 0, Slenes 0, Yanes 0.

Halftime: 33-30

Roligon hosts 'Sentenciador'

THE SENTENCIADOR 3-Cock Derby will be held today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

Hosted by the group of Juancho, Totoy, Cocoy and Junior assisted by Jog (Llamador), the derby is sponsored by Lakpue Drug, Inc.

Among the respected cockers in Metro Manila and suburbs who confirmed their participation were William Co, lawyer Rudy Salud, Pepito Ngo, Boyet Plaza, Gerry Ramos, Edwin Amante, Carding Sambat and Peping Suarez.

Promoter Danny (Showdown) Ty, known for his slogan "Bilis laban, bilis bayad," announced that weights between 1.8 kg and 2.4 kg. must be submitted on the day of the derby from 6-11 a.m.

He also said that the fights will begin at 7 p.m.

Other derbies scheduled at Roligon are Sept. 3, 5 and 7—BL Showdown 7-Stag National Derby, Sept. 12—ASF 5-Stag Derby, Sept. 19—JRS Spectrum 5-Stag Derby, Sept. 26—BMJ 5-Stag Derby, Oct. 1—Blue Blade 5-Stag Derby and Oct. 5—Joshua 5-Stag Derby.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: PGA—he International, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
CVS Charity Classic, Day One at 10 p.m. on ESPN
This is the PGA Tour at 11 p.m. on Star Sports

TENNIS: Masters Series (Cincinnati), Early Round Coverage Day #1 at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. (r), Early Round Coverage Day #2 tomorrow at 1 a.m., (Montreal) Highlights at 8 p.m. on ESPN
WTA Bank of the West Classic, Finals at 3:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: WNBA - Phoenix Mercury vs Houston Comets at 8 a.m. (r-5 p.m.) on ESPN

VOLLEYBALL: FIVB Beach Volleyball—Germany Open, Men's Semifinals at 10 a.m. (r), Men's 3rd Place and Final at midnight on Star Sports

BOWLING: Professional Women's Bowling Association at 3 p.m. (r) on ESPN

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	PCT	GB
East Division				
New York	67	44	.604	—
Boston	63	47	.573	3 1-2
Toronto	53	59	.473	14 1-2
Baltimore	45	67	.402	22 1-2
Tampa Bay	37	74	.333	30
Central Division				
Minnesota	63	48	.568	—
Cleveland	62	48	.564	1-2
Chicago	54	56	.495	8
Detroit	46	63	.422	16
Kansas City	44	67	.396	19
West Division				
Seattle	80	31	.721	—
Oakland	61	50	.549	19
Anaheim	57	54	.513	23
Texas	49	62	.441	31

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
East Division				
Atlanta	63	48	.568	—
Philadelphia	60	51	.540	3
Florida	56	55	.504	7
New York	51	61	.455	12 1-2
Montreal	47	65	.420	16 1-2
Central Division				
Chicago	63	47	.573	—
Houston	62	49	.559	1 1-2
St. Louis	56	54	.509	7
Milwaukee	47	62	.431	15 1-2
Cincinnati	46	64	.418	17
Pittsburgh	43	67	.391	20
West Division				
Los Angeles	63	49	.563	—
Arizona	62	49	.559	1-2
San Francisco	62	50	.554	1
San Diego	54	57	.486	8 1-2
Colorado	46	65	.414	16 1-2

COMPLETE RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Oakland 4, Detroit 1
Toronto 5, Baltimore 4
Boston 6, Texas 3
Anaheim 4, N.Y. Yankees 3
Tampa Bay 6, Chicago White Sox 4
Kansas City 10, Minnesota 5
Cleveland 15, Seattle 14, 11 innings

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Florida 5, St. Louis 3
Atlanta 12, Milwaukee 8
Houston 4, Montreal 1
Pittsburgh 5, Colorado 4
San Francisco 8, Philadelphia 4
Arizona 2, N.Y. Mets 1
Cincinnati 10, San Diego 9
Los Angeles 4, Chicago Cubs 3, 10 innings

AP

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* Available on selected Nokia handsets only.

Promo Mechanics:

1. All Smart Gold and Buddy subscribers registered with the Smart Cinema Club on or before August 7 are eligible to win 2 tickets to the advance screening of Planet of the Apes on August 12, 2001, 8:00 p.m., at the Robinsons Galleria Movieworld
2. All Smart Money cardholders can also win free tickets by simply using their card to make a minimum purchase of ₱100.00 from Aug. 1 - 7, 2001.
3. Draw date will be on August 8, 2001. Winners will be notified by text message and a call to their registered mobile number.
4. Winners can claim their tickets at the DDB Phils. office, 9/F Legaspi Suites, Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City starting August 8, 2001. Or at the Smart Cinema Club Booth at the Robinsons Galleria Cinema on August 12, 2001.
5. Promo is for the Greater Metro Manila area only.

See flyers for details.

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

On Target:
Lacson and Erap headed Kuratong Baleleng A20

Kidnappers barge into unlocked car at red light

By Philip C. Tubeza

A NEPHEW of former Supreme Court justice Emilio Gancayco was robbed and abducted for eight hours after three armed men boarded his unlocked car while it was stopped at a red light in Quezon City.

The suspects broke into Paul Gancayco Alvarez's car Sunday noon in front of the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City.

Alvarez, 42, a resident of 63 Scout Albano St. in Barangay South Triangle, Quezon City and an employee of the Supreme Court, was on his way to Muntinlupa and was driving toward C-5 in his silver gray Toyota Corolla (TJM 364) when he stopped at a red light about 11 a.m. Sunday in front of Ateneo's Gate III, said investigator SP04 Hernan S. Peralta of the Kamuning police station.

Alvarez said that while the car was stopped, three armed men suddenly boarded his car and pointed their handguns at him.

"I was frightened," Alvarez said. "This was the first time this kind of thing happened to me."

He said the men ordered him to continue driving southward toward Ortigas Avenue in Pasig.

But before they reached the

KIDNAPPERS/ A20

FEU medical student dies after hazing

By Romulo O. Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAMBA CITY—A medical student of the Far Eastern University in Manila died allegedly after he went through an initiation rite conducted by his masters in the Sigma Rho fraternity.

The victim was Rafael Albano Jr., 21, a resident of Project 7, Veterans Village, Quezon City, according to PO3 Norman Leron of the Calamba police station.

Leron reported that on Aug. 4, Albano Jr. asked his parents to allow him to join an excursion

FEU/ A20

₱3.1M Amorsolo, Baldemor stolen

By Philip C. Tubeza

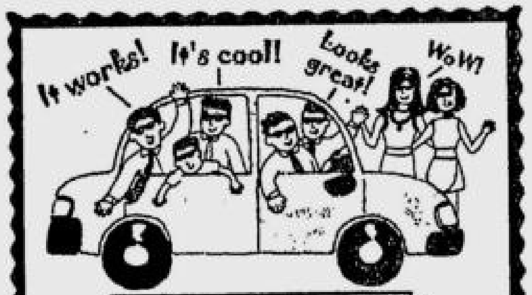
ART THIEVES hogtied an art dealer and robbed her of P3.1 million worth of Amorsolo and Baldemor paintings in Quezon City.

Fe Esterlina S. De Pio, 51, of 37 C. Lantana St. in Barangay Immaculate Concepcion, Quezon City, told po-

P3.1M AMORSOLO/ A20

2 more men hunted for EPD man's slay

A20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Café OVERDRIVE Foto Bldg., P. Tamo Ext., Makati	MARMALADE	FREE ENTRANCE 818.5555/813.1348
Cowboy Grill Brgy Almanza, Las Pinas	GOALKEYS KOOL JACKS	SOUTHBORDER AUG. 22 250 CONS. F & D
Cowboy Grill 1190 Arqueza St., Malate	THINKERS w/ JOGRAD STAY TUNED/CITY BORN	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill 431 Remedios St., Malate	SERSIDE PUZZLES	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill Novaliches Q.C.	HOMOSAPIENS HIMIG	SOUTHBORDER AUG. 8 250 CONS. F & D
KAMPO 2088 #47 West Avenue Q.C.	BLAKDYAK ENTITY/BAND AT WORK	P 200 CONSUMABLE 373.5110/373.7181
Examiner's LITE n'LIVE #52 Examiner St., Q.C.	R. O. B CRUSH & MARVIN	P 150 CONSUMABLE 373.2221/373.7183
MUSIC WAREHOUSE Timog Quezon Ave. Across Central Market	ALAMID 7SECONDS	ANDREW E AUG. 25 P250W/1 SMB
TIA MARIA'S Jupiter St., Makati City	TONI & GIGI	GROOVE W/ VERSE 2 AUG. 25/890.4735
Tropical FOREST Cafe-Grill-Restaurant TM Kalaw Luneta, Manila	VERSATILE	LUNCH SPECIAL P 250/MON-FRI
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2 more suspects hunted for EPD officer's slay

By Blanche S. Rivera

TWO MORE suspects are being hunted for the brutal killing of Eastern Police District officer Insp. German Hepuller, whose mutilated, gutted body was fished out of a river in Taytay, Rizal, on July 28.

An EPD official said police were hot on the trail of two more men allegedly involved in the murder of Hepuller at dawn of July 24.

Police arrested over the weekend five suspects in the Hepuller killing in a series of operations in Taytay, Rizal, as witness Edwin Espino, Hepuller's friend and neighbor, surfaced to tell how he saw the killing.

The arrested suspects were identified as Ricardo Cruz, William Raymundo, Renato Dianala, Edgardo Caruncho and Carlos Hunio.

Police said the five men are facing murder charges before the Pasig City Prosecutor's Office.

Refusing to identify the two other suspects, the EPD source said police are already watching them.

The source added that the two would be in the hands of police anytime soon.

Espino earlier told police that he saw the suspects drag Hepuller into a tricycle after one of them hit the policeman in the head with a wooden bar or a lead pipe.

He said he followed the group to a guardhouse near the Floodway area where he heard Hepuller asking one of the men, "What did I do to you? Why are you doing this to me?"

Espino said he later heard a gunshot coming from the guardhouse.

He said that about 30 minutes later, he saw the suspects carrying out a box with Hepuller's feet sticking out of it.

The men then threw the box into the river, Espino said.

Espino said suspect Cruz saw him as the group was about to leave the Floodway area. He said Cruz came to his house the following day to confront him and threaten him at gunpoint to keep his mouth shut.

He told police that the gun Cruz had pointed at him was Hepuller's nickel-plated .9mm pistol, which was missing when the police officer's body was found.

Hepuller went missing after midnight of July 24 when he left his house at Crestaville II Subdivision in Barangay San Juan, Taytay, Rizal, to buy milk for his daughter.

When his body was found floating in the river, Hepuller's hands and feet were bound and he also had bruises as well as two stab wounds in the body, police said.

Police also said that Hepuller's genitals had been cut off and his stomach was emptied of organs.

Lacson and Erap headed Kuratong Baleleng

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SEN. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, the man on the hot seat, delivered his privilege speech yesterday with a poker face.

Oh, how that sonamagan could lie and yet maintain a straight face! Only very few people are similarly gifted.

But I wonder if he would be able to maintain a poker face during the coming Senate investigation of his alleged hidden wealth and his past crimes.

* * *

Lacson said that the reason I am lambasting him now is that he scrapped a supposed payola that I was allegedly receiving monthly from his predecessor at the Philippine National Police (PNP), Roberto Lastimoso.

The police general turned politician said that I resented his cutting off of the payola when he became chief of the PNP. However, he deliberately did not mention that I was his staunch supporter when he was PNP chief. So, if I resented his scrapping the alleged payola, why was I praising him and his projects at the PNP to high heavens?

The fact is—as I've said time and again—my criticisms of him started when I learned that he had had a hand in the abduction and murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer. And this was after he was elected senator.

* * *

The beleaguered senator said in two radio interviews a month ago that my name was on the list of reporters, editors and columnists who were on the PNP payroll during Lastimoso's time.

But he said that he didn't know whether my name was just used by some "enterprising" people in the PNP to justify the withdrawal of payola from the PNP coffers. Note that he said he wasn't sure whether the amount ever reached me.

But yesterday, when he was interpellated by Sen. Noli de Castro, he said he was sure that I was receiving the payola. He said there was a voucher for the money that I supposedly received.

I now challenge the senator to produce that voucher.

I also challenge him to produce PNP officers and Bureau of Customs officials that, to quote him, I "victimized." It's easy to make accusations, especially when one is protected by parliamentary immunity.

* * *

Lacson time and again said that he had never maintained a bank account in the United States.

But when he was interpellated by Sen. Rene Cayetano he admitted that he once had a bank deposit in California, but that he withdrew all the money.

Which is which, Mr. Senator: did you or did you not have at any time a bank account in the US?

* * *

He said he didn't know the motive of Col. Victor Corpus, chief of military intelligence, for coming out with the exposé that he, together with his wife Alice and former President Estrada, maintained a whopping $728 million in various banks in the US, Canada and Hong Kong.

He can never ascribe any ill motives to Corpus for that exposé. Corpus is a respectable man, an officer and a gentleman.

He told me that he only has the welfare of the country in mind in exposing Lacson.

* * *

By the way, a very close friend of former President Estrada will come out during the Senate hearing to corroborate allegations that Lacson and Erap were engaged in kidnapping for ransom. That aspect, the involvement of Lacson and Erap, the witness knows. He told me he doesn't know whether Erap and Lacson were involved in drug trafficking.

The witness is now under the protective wing of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) which Corpus heads.

This witness says that Erap, Lacson and Charlie "Atong" Ang kidnapped wealthy Filipino-Chinese and robbed banks to accumulate funds for Erap's presidential campaign.

He said that Erap and Lacson became the de facto leaders of the notorious Kuratong Baleleng gang after the massacre of 11 of its members in 1995.

* * *

How did the two take over the Kuratong Baleleng?

The head then of the Kuratong Baleleng, Renato Parohinog, sent a team of assassins to Manila to get Erap and Lacson after the gangster learned that Erap and Lacson got the $2.5 million loot that KB members hijacked from an armored car on the way to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). The amount would have been taken on a flight to Hong Kong.

Erap and Lacson, according to my source, feared for their lives and sent Atong Ang and the late Ernie Tuadles to appease—make *areglo* with—the KB chieftain. "*Mga duwag itong si* Lacson at Erap, Mon," he said.

Parohinog was appeased after the two promised to share part of the dollar loot with Parohinog and pay off the relatives of the 11 Kuratong Baleleng victims.

* * *

Lacson and Erap, the witness said, invited other KB members to Manila to engage in bank robberies and kidnapping for ransom.

"Up until then, the Kuratong Baleleng was only engaged in bank robbery but not kidnapping for ransom. Mr. Estrada and Mr. Lacson convinced the group to go into kidnapping," the witness said.

He said that kidnappings of wealthy Chinese were prevalent during the time that Erap was head of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC) and Lacson was head of Task Force Habagat.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, August 7, 2001
18th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	**Num 12:1-13**
Gospel:	**Mt 14:22-36**

After the crowds has eaten their fill, Jesus obliged his disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he sent the crowd away.

And having sent the people away, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. At nightfall, he was there alone. Meanwhile, the boat was very far from land, dangerously rocked by the waves for the wind was against it.

At daybreak, Jesus came to them walking on the lake. When they saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, thinking that it was a ghost. And they cried out in fear. But at once Jesus said to them, "Courage! Don't be afraid. It's me!" Peter answered, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you walking on the water."

Jesus said to him, "Come." And Peter got out of the boat, walking on the water to go to Jesus. But, in face of the strong wind, he was afraid and began to sink. So he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and took hold of him, saying, "Man of little faith, why did you doubt?"

As they got into the boat, the wind dropped. Then those in the boat bowed down before Jesus saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God!"

They came ashore at Gennesareth. The local people recognized Jesus and spread the news throughout the region. So they brought all the sick to him, begging him to let them touch just the fringe of his cloak. All who touched it became perfectly well.

Commentary

Today's story of the gospel can be read against the background of the story in Exodus where Yahweh invited Israel to walk through the sea. In the gospel Jesus invites Peter, the leader of the new Israel, to walk toward Him on the sea. Peter accepts the invitation and starts walking toward Jesus. His faith is, however, not strong enough to carry him. He begins to sink into the sea and cries for help. Jesus immediately reaches out to save him, and reprimands him in a mild way for his lack of faith. The story was probably originally used to strengthen the faith of the first Christians in times of harassment. Even until today the story invites us as Christians to take initiatives, and even calculated risks, in order to bring to realization that in which we believe.

Father, we are frequently hampered by our fears, because our analysis of the situation remains too human. Give us faith to realize that you are always with us.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LEGAL ETHICS (DUTY OF THE CLERK OF COURT)—Clerk of court enjoys administrative supervision over stenographer—Respondent is the administrative officer of the court. As such, she is charged with the control and supervision of all subordinate personnel of the court, including the stenographers. It is thus incumbent upon her to ensure that they perform their duties well. In the case of stenographers, the Rules of Court requires that they submit the transcript of stenographic notes taken by them not later than 20 days from the time the notes were taken. As administrative officer of the court, the duty of the Clerk of Court is to ensure that the stenographers comply with this rule. Respondent has shown passivity; if not indifference, to the failure of those under her supervision to perform their duties faithfully and well. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc*, Justice Mendoza, Office of the Court Administrator v. Perlez, A.M. No. P-00-1428, Jan. 18, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

FEU medical student . . .

(From page A19)

with fellow students to a hot spring resort in Barangay Bucal in this city.

The outing turned out to be an initiation rite of the Sigma Rho, police said. At about 6 p.m. that same day, Albano was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment of serious injuries.

Albano succumbed about 11 a.m. the following day because of the injuries.

A medico-legal report showed that the victim sustained contusions and injuries in different parts of the body, indicating that he was hit with hard objects.

The report said the fatal blow got Albano in the chest.

A police report said a Dr. Victorino Mangilian, said to be the fraternity adviser who brought the victim to the hospital, was held for questioning by authorities.

The victim's father Rafael Sr. asked Mangilian to identify all those who participated in the hazing.

Kidnappers barge . . .

(From page A19)

Meralco Building on Ortigas Avenue, one of the suspects took over the wheel, he said. He said they blindfolded him and ordered him to sit behind the driver's seat.

"They also asked me if I had money and so I gave them all my cash and my watch," he said.

Alvarez said the suspects took his Omega wristwatch and the P4,500 cash in his wallet.

He said the men continued driving, stopping the car several times.

"I felt somebody leave," he said. "Then at the next stop, somebody boarded the car."

But after eight hours, the suspects simply left him in his car near the McDonald's branch on Panay Avenue in Quezon City, Alvarez said.

When he realized that the suspects were gone, he removed his blindfold and immediately reported the incident to police, he said.

"I went to a substation but they told me to come here (the Kamuning police station) because the suspects might have used the car for illegal activities while I was in the car, blindfolded," Alvarez said.

He described the suspects as in their late 40s.

He told the Inquirer that he did not have enemies and had not received any threat before Sunday's incident.

He said the suspects also did not say anything related to his job while he was in their custody for about eight hours.

₱3.1M Amorsolo . . .

(From page A19)

lice that she lost to the thieves an Amorsolo painting on a GI sheet and a Baldemor watercolor still life, said officer SP04 Edmund Senido of the Kamuning police station.

De Pio said the Amorsolo, which depicted a Filipino woman lighting an oil lamp, cost P3 million, and the Baldemor watercolor was valued at P100,000.

She said one of the suspects identified himself as Ronald A. Fajardo of Smart Telecom. But Smart denied it has an employee with that name.

De Pio told police that Fajardo had a Smart ID card, which he brought when he visited her home before the robbery.

She said Fajardo had gone to De Pio's house four times since July 20 because he was allegedly canvassing for art works.

But about 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Fernando arrived at her home with three other armed men, De Pio said.

She said they brought her to the toilet, hogtied her and covered her mouth with masking tape.

Then they ransacked her home and took the Amorsolo and Baldemor paintings, De Pio said.

A witness also told police that the suspects fled in a Toyota Tamaraw FX (UHK 587) toward an unknown destination.

Police are now trying to get a description of the suspects, especially Fajardo.

Senido said the case was turned over to the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation unit.

WALKING WOUNDED
Holdup suspect Rolando Rendora is treated for gunshot wounds he sustained in a gunbattle with police during a store robbery in Quezon City. EDWIN BACASMAS

Another Metrobank guard arrested

By Nelson F. Flores

POLICE arrested another security guard on suspicion of involvement in the foiled robbery of a Metrobank branch in Pasay City where a security guard was killed.

Senior Supt. Jose Gutierrez, Southern Police District Office director, identified the second security guard arrested as Lupito Zausa, of Puritan Security Agency.

Initial investigation showed that Zausa appeared to have "presented himself" to the robbers to be hogtied.

"That act is very suspicious and contrary to human nature," Gutierrez said.

He said police got suspicious of the security guards because the robbers appeared to know the layout of the bank, including the time of the opening of the vault and the location of the video cameras monitoring every movement inside the bank. This strongly indicates that the robbers have inside information, police said.

Earlier, Supt. Ronald Sabug, SPDO information officer, announced the arrest of guard Jim Deodoro, also an employee of Puritan Security Agency, after a witness testified that Deodoro forewarned the robbers about the arrival of responding policemen by firing his shotgun in the air.

Police said Deodoro could not satisfactorily explain why he fired his gun and tried to stall the responding lawmen from entering the bank.

Four armed men tried to rob the Metrobank branch at the corner of Taft and Gil Puyat avenues Friday morning.

Security guard Romeo Villarmente engaged the robbers in a shootout and he was killed in the process.

The gunshots alerted lawmen in a nearby police station.

Together with motorcycle members of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, they rushed to the bank, forcing the robbers to flee without any loot, Sabug said.

Zausa and Deodoro are detained at the Pasay City Jail for robbery with homicide and obstruction of justice. But they refused to give any statements.

Onion vendor charged with raping cripple

By Jerome Aning

AN ONION vendor yesterday was charged with raping a 28-year-old crippled woman in Quiapo, Manila last Saturday.

The woman, in a complaint filed at the Western Police District Station 2, identified the suspect as Francisco Cacera, 36, a resident of Villalobos Street in Quiapo.

The woman said she ran away from home in Quezon City because her relatives often humiliated her for being an invalid. She said she took a taxi and reached Quiapo around 8 p.m. Saturday.

But she could not pay the fare and the driver threatened to have her arrested.

Cacera, who noticed her and the driver arguing, approached and, after listening to her story, paid her cab fare, the woman said.

She said the vendor even volunteered to let her stay with him while she made up her mind whether to go home or stay.

Police said Cacera led the grateful woman to a dimly lit alley where he sexually abused her. Cacera was arrested shortly after the woman filed a complaint with the city prosecutor's office Sunday.

The suspect claimed he and the woman had consensual sex.

Janitor electrocuted

By Jerome Aning

A JANITOR yesterday morning was electrocuted while looking for the source of a foul smell under an escalator in a moviehouse in Quiapo, Manila.

Lorenzo Breiz, 24, married, employed as a janitor at the Tandem Theater on C.M. Recto Avenue in Quiapo and a resident of V. Mapa Street in Sta. Mesa, died on the spot after touching an exposed live wire under the escalator.

His fellow janitor, Nestor Ellar, 26, told homicide investigator SPO1 Steve Casimiro that they were searching the escalator for what they suspected was a dead rat.

"He asked me to stop the elevator and I did, and he immediately went into a hole at the bottom of the staircase," Ellar told SPO1 Casimiro.

As soon as he got into the opening, Breiz screamed, his body quivered and then lay still, Ellar said. He said Breiz was no longer breathing when he was pulled out of the hole.

SPO1 Casimiro said an exposed live wire found inside the vent could have touched the victim's chest, where policemen found a large burn.

Good Samaritan attacked

A GOOD Samaritan nearly lost his life when he tried to help a construction worker who was being stabbed by two men in Valenzuela City on Sunday.

The worker, Santiago Frivaldo, 21, died at the Valenzuela General Hospital, while Freddie Eustaquio, 36, of Doña Aurora, Poblacion Ibaba, Angono, Rizal, who tried to come to his aid, is in critical condition at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, police said.

Frivaldo suffered multiple stab wounds in the body, while Eustaquio was wounded in the head and right shoulder, investigation showed.

Eustaquio was walking along Lazaro Street in Cannumay West when, about 10:30 p.m., he saw Frivaldo being stabbed by two men, police said.

Eustaquio went to the victim's rescue, but the suspects stabbed him as well. The suspects escaped.

Christian V. Esguerra

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4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	INDECENT PROFESSOR

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RED DIARIES
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	JURASSIC PARK 3

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	RESERVE
3	RED DIARIES
4	KISS OF THE DRAGON

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	RED DIARIES
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	MOULIN ROUGE
2 (DTS)	RED DIARIES
3 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
4	JURASSIC PARK 3

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	RED DIARIES
2 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3 (DTS)	MOULIN ROUGE
4	JURASSIC PARK 3

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	DR. DOLITTLE 2
2	ATLANTIS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	INDECENT PROFESSOR
3	RED DIARIES
4 (DTS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	RED DIARIES
3 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
4	MOULIN ROUGE
5	UNANG TIBOK

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	RED DIARIES
3	MOULIN ROUGE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	RED DIARIES
3	MOULIN ROUGE

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	DR. DOLITTLE 2
2	JURASSIC PARK 3
3	PARU PARONG LIGAW

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	RED DIARIES

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RED DIARIES
2 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RED DIARIES

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	RED DIARIES
2	JURASSIC PARK 3
3	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	DR. DOLITTLE 2
3	TOM CATS
4	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	RED DIARIES
3	MOULIN ROUGE
4 (DTS EX)	KISS OF THE DRAGON

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2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	MOULIN ROUGE
4	CATS & DOGS
5	JURASSIC PARK 3
6	KISS OF THE DRAGON
7	JURASSIC PARK 3
8	RED DIARIES
9	MOULIN ROUGE
10	CATS & DOGS

ERMITA 536-7009 TO 12

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	JURASSIC PARK 3
3	MOULIN ROUGE
4	FINDING FORRESTER
5	RED DIARIES
6	CATS & DOGS
7	JURASSIC PARK 3

NOVALICHES 935-3739 TO 31

1	MOULIN ROUGE
2	SOON TO OPEN
3	RED DIARIES
4	JURASSIC PARK 3
5	KISS OF THE DRAGON
6	CATS & DOGS
7	E. WOUNDS / S. NOVEMBER
8	NARINIG...ANG L8EST/MILA

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	CATS & DOGS
4	JURASSIC PARK 3
5	MOULIN ROUGE
6	RED DIARIES

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	FINAL FANTASY
3	DR. DOLITTLE 2
4	POSSESSED
5	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
6	PANINDA

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
ILOILO
SAN FERNANDO PAMP.

THX DOLBY DIGITAL DOLBY STEREO dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	RED DIARIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	CATS & DOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	MOULIN ROUGE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	RED DIARIES
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	VIRGINS WIFE / FIRST DESIRE
ODEON	KISS OF THE DRAGON
ODEON-2	JURASSIC PARK 3
ROBEN	AMORSEKO
TANDEM-1	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
TANDEM-2	HILIG NG KATAWAN
TIMES	MUMMY RETURN / ME, MYSELF & IRENE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	RED DIARIES
QUEZON-1	PARU PARONG LIGAW
REMAR	KISS OF THE DRAGON
REMAR-2	PANINDA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CATS & DOGS
CINEMA-2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
CINEMA-2	RED DIARIES
CINEMA-3	TOM CATS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
CINEMA-7	SWORDFISH
CINEMA-8	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CATS & DOGS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-12	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-14	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-15	RED DIARIES
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	CATS & DOGS
CINEMA-2	CATS & DOGS
CINEMA-3	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-4	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-5	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-6	MOULIN ROUGE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	NANANABIK
CINEMA-2	JULIETA
CINEMA-4	SCARED

Star Cinema launches 2nd scriptwriting competition

STAR Cinema is giving every aspiring film writer a chance to fulfill a dream of seeing his script come to life on the big screen in its annual scriptwriting contest.

"The Videoke King," one of the finalists in the First Annual Scriptwriting Contest, is now undergoing production.

Writer Ramon Sarmiento did not expect his script to be produced by Star Cinema. A teacher by profession and writer by vocation, Sarmiento told himself he would stop writing scripts if "The Videoke King" would not be made into a movie. But then, he learned about the scriptwriting contest and joined.

Though his entry did not make it to the top three, the script is now being produced by Star Cinema under the direction of Jerry Lopez Sineneng. The movie topbills Robin Padilla and Pops Fernandez.

Star Cinema keeps its vision of opening doors to budding film writers with the Second Annual Star Cinema Scriptwriting Contest. It is open to all Filipinos, 18 years old and above, who wish to write film scripts in any genre.

Existing works are also accepted, provided the script has not yet won any award in competitions of a similar nature. Works that have been commissioned by any other production outfit are also ineligible.

Employees of Star Cinema and ABS-CBN are disqualified from the contest.

Apart from the chance to have their scripts produced into a movie, the winners will get cash prizes, tax free. At stake is P100,000 for the first place, P80,000 for the second place and P60,000 for the third place.

Interested parties should get a copy of the contest rules and regulations with the attached consent form at the Star Cinema office, No. 41 Sct. Borromeo, South Triangle, Quezon City.

Visit the website at www.abs-cbn.com/starcinema/contest.

Deadline for submission of entries is at midnight of Aug. 9. Online submissions will not be accepted.

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NOW SHOWING

KISS OF THE DRAGON
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Aug. 7 - Tuesday
6:25 PM - Kiss of the Dragon
8:35 PM - Kiss of the Dragon
10:45 PM - Kiss of the Dragon

BRIDGET JONES DIARY
opens Wednesday Aug. 8

GET A COPY of the 4th issue of Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation, published jointly with the U-P College of Mass Communication. Special discounts given to Louie's THX members.

Hear the Difference. Feel the Excitement

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Dull ravages of steadily encroaching ennui

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHY do they keep churning out "Jurassic Park" movies every three years or so? It's the profit motive, impure and simple.

Take the latest incarnation of this old cinematic sawhorse, "Jurassic Park III" – it goes pretty much through the same territory, but it's doing good business at the tills. Which just goes to show, Kneejerk viewing habits die hard.

This new film starts out in an irritating manner: our resident expert on dinosaurs, played by Sam Neill, is tricked into accompanying the parents of a lost boy to the island holding the dinosaurs captive, in order to find their son.

We can understand why the boys' parents would go to such devious lengths to save their son from certain death. But what we can't their son from certain death. But what we can't take is Neill's phlegmatic reaction to the trickery.

This adds to the unreality of the movie's proceedings, and it isn't long before we've stopped empathizing with the dubious problems and travails of its principal characters.

But there are two moments that lift the film above its lethargic progression: The first comes when the boy is viciously snatched from a raging river by some flying dinosaurs, and deposited on their nest for their ravenous offspring to tear to pieces.

The second is an aural effect, but it's also quite chilling: From time to time, the survivors hear the ringing sound of a cell phone, and this baffles them – until they discover that the sound is coming from a dinosaur's belly.

They realize with a jolt that the dinosaur's belly.

They realize with a jolt that the dinosaur had eaten a colleague, and now his cell phone's signal has become the dinosaur's dreaded warning sound!

Also arresting are the shots of herds of dinosaurs come triumphantly and dangerously to life. But these have become par for the course for "Jurassic" productions like this one, so it's the more unusual effects that provide some of the excitement that the movie needs to sustain its interest level.

Unfortunately, there aren't enough of those special moments to save the film from the dull ravages of steadily encroaching envnvi.

'JAM' finalists

THE GRAND finals of "JAM: Himig Handog sa Makabagong Kabataan" will be aired live on "ABS-CBN Presents" at 9:30 p.m. on Oct. 21. Vying for the to prizes in the songwriting tilt for the country's youth are 10 finalists:

"Kahit Pilitin Pa" by Arnel de Pano is on what it takes for a teenage girl to lead a virtuous life these days.

"Tara Tena" is by Jonathan Manalo, who's only 22 years old.

"Free" is by Gino Torres, who has worked with the likes of Lea Salonga and Rachel Alejandro.

"Network I" is by Paul Armesin, a musical arranger.

"True Luv" is by Michael Luis, who was a singer during his teenage years.

"You Can Make It Happen" is by the husband-and-wife team of Dodjie and Elisa Simon.

"Jam" is by Michael Joseph Villegas, former founding member of Color It Red.

"K Naman" is by Jungee Marcelo, who has written songs for Gary Valenciano, Regine Velasquez and Sharon Cuneta.

"Si Eddie," by Laarni Macaraeg and Luz Pumanega, is on the perplexing habits of today's youth, as seen from adults' perspective.

And "Someday" is by Jimmy Antiporda, a founding member of Neocolors who now has his own label and music studio.

The top prize is P500,000, the second prize is P250,000, and the third prize is P100,000. The Listeners' Choice Award is voted on by phone and has a P100,000 prize.

The Readers' Choice Award, also with a P100,000 cash component, goes to the song that gets the most mailed-in votes from readers of Chalk and Star Studio Magazine. And internet surfers who go to the Jam website at abs-cbn.com. can vote on the Net Surfers' Award, also worth P100,000.

Aug. 7 at 7 p.m. on Star Mandarin Movies, "Mr. Vampire" with Moon Lee. At p.m. on Viva Cinema, "I'm Sorry, My Love" with Judy Ann Santos and Onemig Bondoc. AT 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Dogon County" focuses on French ethnologist Marcel Griaule. And at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "Notting Hill" topbills Julia Roberts and Hugh Grant.

Martin, Gary to go to Aliw Hall of Fame to give others a chance

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

SINGER **JOEY Albert,** who is visiting from Vancouver, Canada, will host the Aliw Awards tonight at the ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza.

After more than a decade, the Aliw Awards were revived last year.

"After the Edsa Revolution in 1986, we felt there was not much support and attention given by the administration to the entertainment industry," explains Aliw founding chair **Alice Reyes**. "There were also not enough people dedicated to the cause of live entertainment who could run the foundation, so we stopped operation."

In 1999, however, Reyes prevailed upon **Beth Sison Tagle** to head the foundation as president, taking over from **Leo Baluyot**.

"Only then did we decide to revive the Aliw Awards," Reyes says.

Yet, when Aliw was resurrected last year, the foundation received flak from some sectors that contended there were already enough award-giving bodies in local entertainment.

But Reyes says the revival of the Aliw Awards was prompted by countless requests from awardees, nominees and former officers of the foundation.

Aliw gives out the much coveted "Entertainer of the Year" award. Previous winners were **Gary Valenciano, Martin Nievera, Bert Marcelo, Tessie Tomas, Kuh Ledesma, Freddie Aguilar, Basil Valdez, Celeste Legaspi, Pilita Corrales, Tessie Tomas, Nonoy Zuñiga** and **Rico J. Puno**.

"Next year, we might have to elevate Gary and Martin to the hall of fame, so we can give other artists a chance to win the Entertainer of the Year award," Reyes says.

Still at it after 20 years

JOEY Albert, who has been based in Vancouver for six years now, admits she feels alienated every time she comes home to visit.

"There are so many new artists today," Joey explains. "It's very different now. I'm lucky I have a niche in the industry and I have loyal followers who patronize my music and my shows."

This is her 20th year as a singer.

"After college in 1981, I went straight to El Camarote at the Holiday Inn," Joey recalls. "I feel flattered that my songs have been revived by other artists. They're doing the work for me. At least even if I'm away, the public still remembers me through my hits."

Joey lives in Canada with her husband of 13 years, **Ting Pacis**, who works for Avis. They have two daughters, **Trixie**, 11, and **Marga**, 8.

In Vancouver, Joey finds time to bond with former actress **Alice Dixson**, who also migrated there after marrying **Ronnie Miranda**. Once when Joey's daughter Trixie was hospitalized, Alice came to bring food that she herself had cooked.

Once in a while, Joey also accepts singing engagements. Last February, she did a Valentine's Day show with singer-composer Jose Mari Chan at the Masonic Theater in San Francisco.

ALBERT

Joey did a solo concert, "Larger Than Life," at the Orpheum Theater in Vancouver, where the big crowd was composed mainly of Filipino immigrants.

During her Manila visit last year, Joey released an album, "Looking Back," which consists of revival ballads and sentimental hits, from Orbit Records.

She was supposed to do a two-night concert at Captain's Bar last month but the shows had to be postponed after her daughter was hospitalized.

"That's why my trip here was delayed," Joey says. "But instead of Captain's Bar, I will do two shows at the Music Museum on Aug. 10 and 11. Only the venue was changed."

In "Joey Albert... Once More," she will sing '80s tunes and her own hits like "Tell Me," "Iisa Pa Lamang," "I Remember the Boy," "Yakapin Mo Ako" and "Points of View."

"It's as if my show will not be complete if I don't sing my hits," Joey says. "The audience ask for my songs every time they come to see my show."

She will also sing music from the soundtrack of the **Baz Luhrman** movie "Moulin Rouge," like "Your Song" and "One Day I'll Fly Away."

Her guest is **Jeffrey Hidalgo.** Berklee College of Music graduate **Gerard Salonga** is the musical director.

Anthony and Maricel's fourth

CONGRATULATIONS to **Anthony Pangilinan** and **Maricel Laxa** on the birth of their fourth baby, **Benjamin**, who arrived weighing 10 pounds Thursday night.

Maricel gave birth 10 minutes after she was wheeled into the delivery room.

'ZINE' OPENS SECOND SEASON

Studio 23 airs the new season of "Zine," a show that covers almost any subject –personalities, food, fashion, travel, arts and culture, sports, computers, music, show biz and politics. It is hosted by six young and hip personalities: commercial model and TV/stage actor Paolo Fabregas, former kiddie show host and singer Flexi Sarte, print and TV commercial model Tristan Jovellana, radio DJ Ria Vinzon, former Agenda magazine-turned-fashion stylist and art director Noel Manabat and ANC Channel newscaster Trisha Salvador. "Zine" is produced by Nadeia Sarte of CP Productions and Entertainment and directed by Calvin Neria. The show airs every Tuesday starting tonight, 11:15 p.m.

Guess who: comedian's latest lover, singer's pregnant daughter

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

GUESS who this upcoming sexy star is who is a comedian's latest paramour?

Funny thing is, the starlet is chummy with the comedian's wife whom she befriended on purpose. To neutralize the enemy?

Little does the comedian know that the starlet also has intimate liaisons with a married TV host and a matinee idol who in turn has a longtime steady girlfriend.

At the rate the starlet is going, she'll be a falling star in no time at all.

* * *

GUESS who is this chanteuse's daughter who is said to be pregnant?

A band singer is being pinpointed as the father of the baby. Musicians close to the couple are not a bit surprised by the news. As one *musikero* disclosed in Filipino, "The girlfriend is always tightly guarding the guy. She goes with him even to band meetings. They live together in the house of the girl's mom since the mom is always away anyway. The girl was always meddling in the guy's career so we had to drop him from the band. It's such a waste because he's a good singer."

I wonder if the singer/mother will force her darling *hija* to end her romance with the band singer.

* * *

GUESS who is this bold star who flew to the US to join her action star/lover for the birthday of his sister? The poor wife had to stay behind because it was school opening for their kids.

They have long been denying their romance but people close to them swear they always have trysts abroad. She even has a boyfriend just to cover up her clandestine affair.

What will it take for the action star's wife to take action and dump him? His womanizing ways seems congenital!

* * *

GUESS who is this comedienne who ruined the engagement of a couple who is not from show biz?

The girl complained to me: "It's so painful! We were supposed to get married until she got in the way. She should have left my fiancé alone. She's too old for him. I know she's just after his money."

Let's see if the comedienne will have the last laugh.

Just asking

COULD it be true that Raymart Santiago and Kristine Florendo are now on? They are both single so why the secrecy? Are they just wary of Vic Sotto who is allegedly Kristine's ex-paramour?

Who is this Miss China (not Cojuangco) whom Dingdong

Dantes is always seen with on the Ateneo campus? When oh when will he officially proclaim who his true love is?

Freestyle at Big Dome

AMID stiff competition in the live performance arena, the name Freestyle now rings a loud bell among young music lovers. This month, Freestyle retakes the Big Dome to share their best-loved songs with their fans in "Freestyle: All Hits."

For the first time, Freestyle shares the stage with two of the country's hitmakers, MTV-Pilipinas 2001 Best Male Performer and songwriter par excellence Ogie Alcasid and child-superstar-turned-pop-singer Aiza Seguerra as special guests.

Tickets at P150, P300, P600, P900 and P1,200 are available at SM Ticketnet outlets in all SM branches and at Maxi-Media, 813-8999 and 893-7737.

. For feedback, e-mail wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

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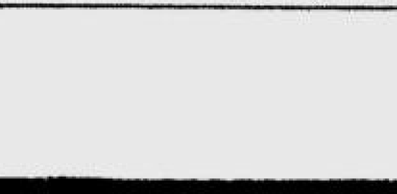
1	2	3
CATS & DOGS - GP 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	CATS & DOGS - GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	JURASSIC PARK 3 - P13 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
KISS OF THE DRAGON - R 18 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	JURASSIC PARK 3 - P 13 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20	MOULIN ROUGE - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri, 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


THE PRODUCING TEAM OF 'BIG DADDY' DELIVERS ANOTHER WINNER!
"THE COMEDY HIT OF THE SUMMER!" SHAWN EDWARDS, FOX-TV
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REVOLUTION STUDIOS
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Schneider, 'ANIMAL': Hayop sa katatawanan

Rob Schneider, lovable Filipino star of the comedy hit DEUCE BIGALOW MALE GIGOLO is back, funnier than ever in Columbia Pictures' THE ANIMAL.

As Marvin Mange, he has the strength of a lion, the agility of a chimpanzee and the affections of... a goat?

Thanks to a life-saving experimental surgery that fuses his body with animal parts, Marvin's dreams of becoming a cop like his dad come true. Armed with new bulging muscles and a keen sense of smell, he even becomes a police hero, as he saves a drowning boy and sniffs out drug smugglers at the airport.

But complications arise when he starts falling for Rianna (Colleen Haskell, *Survivor*), an animal shelter volunteer. Will he finally be able to control his beastly ways with the woman he loves?

OPENS TOMORROW

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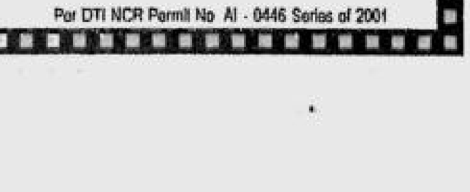
MTRCB PG-13
Renée Zellweger Hugh Grant Colin Firth


BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY
For anyone who's ever been set up, stood up, or felt up.

OPENS TOMORROW!
Per DTI NCR Permit No AI - 0446 Series of 2001

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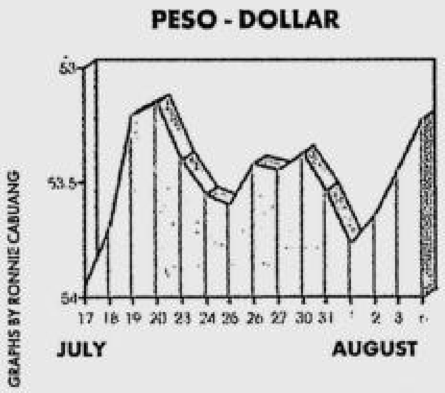


Peso-Dollar Rate

₱53.22 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
August 6, 2001

¥124.08 = $1

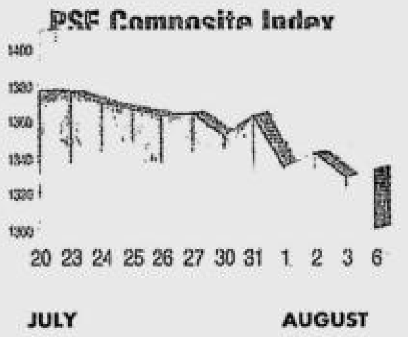
The US dollar was trading at 124.08 as of 5 p.m., August 6, 2001

GOLD:$268.10/268.60

per ounce Hong Kong,
August 6, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares up 0.3%



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices rose 0.3 percent yesterday due to a firmer peso but gains were capped by concerns over a hostage crisis involving Muslim gunmen in the South, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 4.88 points to close at 1,333.05.

"The market is very fragile and it can easily slide to 1,300 if other investors will not buy the stocks being sold off by foreign funds that are exiting," said Enrique Santa Ana of Vickers Ballas Securities. "We don't see any positive (news) that will come out soon," he added.

Volume was lower at 551.65 million shares but value rose slightly to P382 million from Friday's 767 million shares valued at P333 million.

AFP

July inflation rises to 6.8%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S annual inflation rate inched up to 6.8 percent in July from 6.7 percent in June due to the pressure on the prices of food, services, and housing and repairs caused by the typhoons during the month.

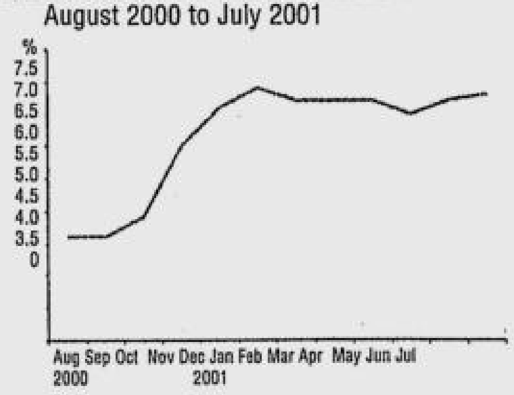
Despite the typhoons, however, the month-on-month inflation decelerated to 0.6 percent in July from one percent in the previous month as increases in the prices of fuel, light and water services, and miscellaneous items slowed down, the National Statistics Office reported.

The July inflation brought the country's seven-month average to 6.8 percent, well within the 7-percent ceiling targeted by the government for the full year. The inflation rate for the month of July last year stood at 4.3 percent.

"It's not exactly bad but it's not comfortable either," Worldsec International Securities Phils. Eric Claudio said.

The slowdown in month-on-month inflation, Claudio said, would give the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas less reason to worry about the impact of the current level of money supply.

Inflation Rates: All Items
August 2000 to July 2001



SOURCE: NSO

Claudio said the impact of the typhoons during the month was mitigated by the high consumer price index base from last year, noting that July was always a typhoon season anyway.

"Inventory of food was still on the high side and despite the initial disruptions caused by the typhoons, the inventory was still sufficient to control the upsurge," Claudio said.

However, he said the July inflation rate has yet to fully reflect the out-of-season factors such as the uptick in oil prices and the depreciation of the peso.

The month-on-month increase in the fuel, light and water index even declined to 0.9 in July from 1.6 percent in June.

The inflation rate in the National Capital Region increased to 8.3 percent in July from 8.2 percent in June mainly due to the uptick in the prices of food, beverage and tobacco while the inflation rate in areas outside the NCR remained at 6.3 percent.

"The closure of all exit points from Baguio City and the floods in some Northern Luzon provinces caused insufficient supply of vegetables in NCR. This raised the fruits and vegetables index in the Philippines and NCR by one percent and 1.3 percent, respectively," the NSO said.

Gov't rejects high bids for treasury bills

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANKS wary of another increase in the reserve requirement yesterday tried to jack up the rates of the treasury bills but the government rejected all bids and kept yields of all tenors unchanged.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the auction committee was forced to reject the high bids of banks to prevent the government's borrowing rate from going up unreasonably.

Had the treasury accepted the bids, the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate would have increased by half-a-percentage point while yields of the six-month and one-year debt notes would have soared by 0.75 percentage point and 0.80 percentage point.

With the Treasury's full-rejection, the 91-day treasury bill rate was unchanged at 10.102 percent while rates of the 182- and 364-day borrowing papers also stayed at 11.324 percent and 11.725 percent.

"The bids were too high and we had no other recourse but to reject all bids. The market is suffering from a lack of liquidity and banks are concerned with another increase in their reserve requirement," Edeza said.

Banks agreed they were spooked by the plan of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to raise the reserve requirement by another two percentage points to 20 percent.

A bank treasurer said not only would liquidity be affected but also their profitability, especially if the BSP would decide to raise the statutory reserve portion, which earns lower-than-market rates.

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Force the tissue

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

GLORIAETTA herself—meaning, it was not her husband—spoke last week on the peso exchange rate. This, according to my brightest goldfish, can work both ways.

Right now, the foreign exchange market is either nervous, uneasy, worried, edgy or jumpy. It must calm down somehow. For instance, we can shoot the speculators.

Instead, the President herself—meaning, it's now official—chose to use words. She said the peso should recover to 50 per dollar within the year. Wow! Bold!

Her verdict, on the one hand, can prop up the peso. It depreciated so rapidly in the past three months that it already became a business nightmare. Time to talk it up a bit!

On the other hand, it can also backfire. Why must Glorinetta, er, "urge" the Bangko Sentral to do something? You mean, this cute administration is helpless?

Knowing the forex market, I can almost see its reaction to her statement as diverse and conflicting as the views of her Cabinet men. Stand up, please, Joey!

* * *

OBVIOUSLY, she was trying out as the new peso cheerleader. As they say in the forex market, talk is cheap, and lovers cannot see. Or something close.

Star billing in Gloriaetta's rah-rah-rah was the prediction of Hong Kong Bank. There's a reason. It is such a big name in world finance that the forecast must be credible.

Supposedly, the bank said the peso should strengthen to 50 per dollar or even lower. See, it was not even the forecast of government economists who just idle about.

But this new Gloriaetta-quoted forecast of Hong Kong Bank was a clear departure from its earlier forecast. I can only wonder what happened there. What's the deal?

As early as January, even before this cute administration would warm up on the hot seat of good governance, the bank was already bearish on the peso. Why the change?

Hong Kong Bank in Manila denied anything to do with Gloriaetta's figure. Apparently, the study was made in Hong Kong. Even foreign forecasts are now imported!

* * *

WITHOUT the backup measures, Glorinetta's cheering for the peso may not be enough. It's a long tournament. We don't even know when it is going to end.

So far, the Bangko Sentral does only some palliative measures. Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura mainly uses moral suasion.

Another term for moral suasion is, of course, pressure. Tito Paeng is banking's *capo di tutti cappi*. You know the power of the central bank over banks, right?

Thus, the banks, ahh, "volunteered" to cut by half even their extra dollar positions. These are allowed by the Bangko Sentral. They're legal.

I'm happy to report t was not a big deal. The five biggest banks in the country, for instance, can hoard, *este*, hold up about $10 million each before the voluntary cut.

The result was not even a slow day's worth of trading in the forex market. Cut their positions by half, and you free up only $25 million. Hep, hep, hooray!

* * *

TITO Paeng, no wonder, wants to force the issue. He is solving the problem by attacking the so-called excess liquidity.

Now that has nothing to do with too much water, whether it's water under the bridge or it's water over the bridge, in which case it becomes flood, thanks to DPWH.

Excess liquidity means there's too much money going around. It only tempts banks to gamble on the forex rate. Tempt? Usually, all right, the banks just give in.

Tito Paeng can raise interest rates. This move will attract the banks' gambling money into the Bangko Sentral's vaults. Thus, they stop going to the forex casino.

Or, Tito Paeng can raise the reserves of banks. He forces them to surrender money to the Bangko Sentral like it was just tissue paper. They can't buy dollars with it.

Tito Paeng raises the reserves, but banks want him to raise the rates on long-term government IOUs. These, instead of dollars, can lure the money. The rich can also party.

* * *

ASIDE from only the rich having the money to invest in high-rate government IOUs, which all of us down here have to pay later, Tito Paeng worries about the economy.

Let's say he raises interest rates. What will banks do? You can bet your neighbor's wife that, most likely, banks will also raise their lending rates.

So what will happen? More businesses will close down due to high financial costs. More jobless, in short. Hmmm. It only hits us down here again. *Yun lang pala!*

To me, there's only one solution. This cute administration must come up with the dollars somehow. And I am not even referring to that newfound hidden wealth in the US!

If, as per intelligence report, it exists, we must get it before it goes somewhere else. Look what happened to the Marcos wealth. Only 15 years and not a cent!

Nobody is even sure that getting the Marcos wealth is a priority of this cute administration. But why? To think none of us is even related to Greggy Araneta.

* * *

ANYWAY, words cannot fool some of the people in the forex market all the time. Everybody knows that this country must pay up its old debts soon.

Remember the debt crisis? In October of 1983, the Marcos dictatorship admitted that it could not pay its foreign debts. Thus, the repayment period had to be lengthened.

Starting in 1985, our beloved government promised the world that we would start paying our debts 15 or 16 years from then. Guess what? That's right about now!

Based on official figures, which I neither stole nor obtained through intelligence, our debt burden—for this year alone—comes up to an amazing $1.5 billion.

And the market knows it. That's why there's speculation. Why? There are a lot of signs of panic among the legitimate users of dollars. They must be assured.

Only way to do it is, well, to show them the color of this cute administration's money. You know—It better be green.

National Bookstore acquires 10% stake in Internet firm

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

NATIONAL Bookstore Inc. has acquired a 9.8-percent stake worth over P55 million in publicly listed technology firm Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. as part of its new strategy to break into the online retailing business.

"National Bookstore's investment into Ajo.Net is a move towards the establishment of a long-term relationship between the two companies. Both companies are currently finalizing details for this month's deployment of Internet and video conferencing terminals and kiosks in select National Bookstore outlets," Ajo.Net said in a news statement.

People familiar with the transaction told the INQUIRER that based on recent block sales in the stock market, National Bookstore paid around P1.10 a share for around 50-million Ajo.Net shares.

National Bookstore invested around P55 million to acquire the 9.8-percent Ajo.Net stake, they said.

The price of Ajo.Net shares was up by 2 centavos at P1.14 yesterday.

Ajo.Net has a wholly owned subsidiary, Qnet Communications Inc., which provides videoconferencing and Internet stations for Filipinos here and those living and working abroad.

"Both companies believe that the traditional customers of National Bookstore are potential users of communication facilities and other Internet-based services. Beyond this, new retail applications will be developed, eventually turning the kiosks into online stores of National Bookstore," Ajo.Net said.

"The kiosks can service as product locators, store catalogues and a venue for sales promotions. Educational applications, such as online enrolment services will be introduced in the future," it said.

Qnet has so far deployed 25 videoconferencing and Internet terminals at the World Wide Plaza and Bayanihan Town Center in Hong Kong, Magic Mall in Pangasinan, PLDT Call Mall in Makati, National Bookstore in Cubao, Tutuban Center Mall in Manila, Sta. Lucia East Mall in Cainta, Plaza Luisita Mall in Tarlac and Fiesta World Mall in Batangas.

Qnet has an existing tie-up with telecom giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. that allows customers of its kiosks to pay using PLDT's prepaid "Fonkard".

National Bookstore is owned by the family of trader Alfredo Ramos.

Ramos' Alakor Corp. recently took control of Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp., which used to be Asia's biggest copper mine operator.

Ajo.Net has private placements in US technology company BitMicro Networks Inc., a privately held California corporation founded by Filipino professionals and Silicon Valley-based Internet upstart Hands-On Network Inc.

COUNTRY SHARES
As of August 07, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1,700,000	1,800,000/2,100,000*
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	750,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	325,000	350,000
CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	135,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	210,000	215,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	350,000/620,000**	400,000/450,000*/700,000**
EASTRIDGE A	-	200,000
EVERCREST A/B*	-	150,000/170,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	88,000/120,000*	90,000/150,000*/200,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	-	200,000/350,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	Please call
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	-	400,000/350,000*
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	3,675,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	770,000	800,000/890,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	165,000/180,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	350,000*	240,000/650,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C* (with lot)**	-	400,000/650,000*/2,000,000**
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	600,000**	260,000/425,000*
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	85,000	90,000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	150,000	160,000/Please call*
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	225,000	230,000
RIVIERA A/B*	-	230,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	650,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	100,000	120,000/150,000*
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	250,000/350,000*/450,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	1,600,000	1,850,000
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	400,000*	300,000/500,000*
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320,000	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	-	425,000/950,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	800,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	185,000	200,000
VALLEY GOLF	-	265,000
WACK WACK	8,000,000	8,500,000

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Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest and Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands
Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay and Southwoods
Buying: Orchard Lot Phase 7

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GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF AUGUST 6, 2001

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,900,000	
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	2,100,000	1,900,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	770,000	750,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	850,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	130,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	400,000	
10. CLUB FILIPINO	250,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	400,000	
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	140,000	100,000
14. FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
17. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	400,000	
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	450,000	
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	14,500,000	
21. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,500,000	
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	750,000	
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	800,000	
24. MANILA YACHT CLUB	850,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	160,000	
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	170,000	150,000
27. MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	400,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	
29. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	400,000	
30. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	550,000	
31. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	150,000	140,000
32. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	200,000
33. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	
34. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	350,000	
35. ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls Call	Pls. Call
36. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,900,000	1,800,000
37. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	500,000	
38. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	900,000	850,000
39. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	750,000
40. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	195,000	175,000
41. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	285,000	
42. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	8,600,000	

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Group says RP losing out to Vietnam

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE JAPANESE Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines Inc. yesterday warned that Japanese businessmen were ready to move out of the Philippines and relocate to Vietnam should President Macapagal fail to resolve their security and economic concerns.

In a speech during a forum between Japanese businessmen and top Cabinet officials, Japanese Chamber president Shoichi Kameyama said "new Japanese investments in the Philippines are not forthcoming and some Japanese companies are now seriously contemplating to transfer their base of operations to more investor-friendly countries."

He said Japanese businessmen were now preferring China, Thailand and Vietnam over the Philippines.

Kameyama bluntly told Cabinet officials that the Philippines had lost its competitive edge because other countries were producing the same or better quality goods at lower production costs.

He added that the country's neighbors had relatively a stable peace and order climate, attractive incentives, scarce labor disputes and firmly established regulations.

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Alabang Country Club "A"	-	1,850,000
Alabang Country Club "B"	Best Offer	-
Camp John Hay	-	350,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC	120,000	160,000
Canyon Woods	-	350,000
Calatagan	100,000	160,000
Canlubang	-	Best Bid
Celebrity Sports	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Club Filipino "A"	-	280,000
Eagleridge "A"	-	400,000
Evercrest golf club "A"	Pls. Call	150,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	240,000
Fontana "D"	60,000	90,000
Metropolitan	-	Best Bid
Mt. Malarayat "A"	280,000	360,000
Orchard	-	Pls. Call
Phil. Columbian	70,000	90,000
Puerto Azul	-	Best Bid
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	240,000
Riviera Golf	-	250,000
Sherwoods	190,000	250,000
Subic Bay Yatch Club	-	300,000
Tagaytay Country Club	Pls. Call	-
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	-	960,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	780,000
Valle Verde	Best Offer	-

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DISCLOSURES

LORENZO Shipping Corp. has informed the Philippine Stock Exchange that 104.9-million shares out of its 300-million preferred shares issued for an increase in its authorized capital stock have been subscribed by stockholders during its first and second round of offerings.

* * *

GLOBE Telecom Inc. has awarded Tyco Electronics Power Systems Inc. a $1-million contract to provide the power systems for its backhaul transmission equipment and cable landing facilities in Nasugbu, Batangas.

* * *

MANILA Jockey Club Inc. has entered into an agreement allowing TAB Philippines Inc. to put up a nationwide off-track betting system and to supply, install, operate and maintain a new computer system for the company. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, Aug. 6, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	66	66	65	66	117,700
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35	35	34.5	34.5	2,700
First E-Bank Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	18,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	210	210	207	207	52,630
Philippine National Bank	47	47	47	47	589,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	29	28.5	29	6,100
Security Bank Corp.	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.5	4,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.75	24.75	24.75	24.75	300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1605	1605	1605	1605	10,790
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1310	1310	1310	1310	4,560
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	38	39	38	39	63,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	390,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	660	665	650	650	1,280
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	500,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	8,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	17,000
Piltel	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	710,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	605	615	605	615	77,550
Ivantage Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	140,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.035	0.035	0.031	0.034	195,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	35	35	34	34	33,600
Manila Electric Co. B	41	41.5	39.5	39.5	2,143,400
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.86	1.82	1.82	1,148,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.06	2.06	1.98	2	2,392,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	44,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.04	2.04	31,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	3,478,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	56,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	27	28	27	28	27,200
RFM Corp.	2.48	2.48	2.42	2.42	3,082,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42.5	43	42.5	43	81,100
San Miguel Corp. B	55	56	55	56	265,200
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.68	60,000
Ayala Corp.	6	6.1	6	6.1	503,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.52	608,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.14	750,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.009	90,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	800,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.2	0.2	2,100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.74	1.76	1,943,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	40,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16	350,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	250,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28	28	27.5	28	79,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
Ionics Inc.	10.5	10.5	10	10	15,600
Ipeople Inc.	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.16	180,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1.1	1.16	1.1	1.16	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	2	2	2	2	200,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	10,106,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	1,810,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	60,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	6,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.24	610,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.27	0.29	770,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	50,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5	5	5	5	10,000
Music Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	2,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.97	0.97	0.94	0.95	1,190,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	50,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.56	3,330,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.48	500,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	120,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	2,000,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	39	39.5	39	39	339,600
Globe Tel. A-Warrants	455	455	455	455	540
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	680	680	635	635	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10	10	10	10	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,500
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.017	0.018	0.016	0.017	120,300,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	375	375	375	375	10
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	1,630,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	25,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	60,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	3,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	2,570,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.88	1.94	1.88	1.9	2,550,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	40,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2	2	2	2	52,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	4,716,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.049	0.0525	0.049	0.05	51,600,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	2,150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	90,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.021	0.022	0.02	0.02	14,200,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	5,500,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	3,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	90,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	670,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	805,980	69,971,485.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	457,450,780	264,163,035.00
PRO	14,873,000	44,136,160.00
Mining	69,040,000	3,312,200.00
OIL	9,260,000	264,900.00
GRAND TOTALS:	551,434,760	381,858,280.00
AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	549.26	DOWN 3.05
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,884.84	UP 2.67
PRO	507.32	UP 4.96
Mining	1,277.42	DOWN 10.64
OIL	1.77	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	818.41	DOWN 3.61
Composite	1,333.05	UP 4.88

NO. OF ADVANCES: 21; NO. OF DECLINES: 37; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 41; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 99; NO. OF TRADES: 2,010

CURRENCIES

Aug-6-2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.130582	1.000000	53.5620
Japan	Yen	0.009142	0.008086	0.4331
United Kingdom	Pound	1.615376	1.428800	76.5294
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.144972	0.128228	6.8681
Switzerland	Franc	0.662943	0.586373	31.4073
Canada	Dollar	0.739330	0.653937	35.0262
Singapore	Dollar	0.636338	0.562841	30.1469
Australia	Dollar	0.585643	0.518001	27.7452
Bahrain	Dinar	2.999051	2.652661	142.0818
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.301472	0.266652	14.2824
Brunei	Dollar	0.634553	0.561262	30.0623
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000119	0.000105	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024902	0.022026	1.1798
UAE	Dirham	0.307893	0.272331	14.5866
Korea	Won	0.000885	0.000783	0.0419
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.884500	47.3756
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.452238	24.2228
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134841	7.2224
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.401369	21.4981
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064279	3.4429
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021926	1.1744
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000457	0.0245
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.148762	7.9680
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004412	0.2363
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005316	0.2847
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021926	1.1744
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.123083	60.1546

COSMOS SALE

SMC, RFM sign agreement

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding to acquire 100 percent of RFM Corp.'s profitable Cosmos Bottling Corp. for P15 billion, a deal that would give it 90-percent control of the local soft drink market.

Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc., which was recently reacquired by SMC, will take over the CBC business in partnership with Atlanta-based Coca-Cola Co., which will acquire the Pop Cola, Sarsi Rootbeer and Jaz soft drink brands.

In separate statements yesterday, SMC and RFM said the definitive sale and purchase agreement is targeted for signing by September following a 30-day due-diligence audit.

RFM is unloading its 83.2-percent stake in the company at a huge profit after years of good financial track record.

RFM president and CEO Jose Concepcion III said the company was now reaping the fruits of years of good stewardship of Cosmos. He noted that RFM bought Cosmos from the Wong family 13 years ago for only P500 million and has since then invested about P1 billion to successfully expand the business and market its Pop Cola and Sarsi brands, a strategy that has now paid off.

Out of the "enterprise value" of P15 billion that SMC would pay for 100 percent of CBC, analysts estimate that RFM would generate net proceeds of P10.57 billion.

The P15 billion that SMC agreed to pay for 100 percent of CBC will translate to a price of P6.53 for each of the latter's 2.29-billion outstanding shares.

Cosmos, however, will have to settle some P2.3 billion worth of debts prior to its turnover to SMC, including P640 million in preferred shares held by another RFM subsidiary, Swift Foods Inc. The deal will thus translate to a net price of P5.54 per share, analysts said.

With the sale of its biggest cash cow, however, RFM is now under pressure to seek new revenue drivers even if the huge cash proceeds will not only wipe out its debts but leave it with a significant cash hoard. RFM and Cosmos share prices yesterday fell by 8 centavos and 10 centavos, respectively, to P2.42 and P5.80 as investors took profit on news of the MOU signing.

Concepcion said he was optimistic that the remaining businesses of RFM, while not as profitable as Cosmos, would offer strong growth prospects.

The deal with SMC includes a 10-year non-compete clause but does not include Cosmos' bottled water business.

Firms follow Smart-Nextel row

By Abigail L. Ho

NEXTEL Communications Philippines Inc. may be facing more headaches in the coming days as other telecommunications companies have expressed an intention to file a complaint for its alleged illegal operation of an international gateway facility (IGF).

Smart Communications Inc. earlier filed a complaint against Nextel with the National Telecommunications Commission.

A hearing was conducted at the NTC last Thursday where legal counsels of different telecommunication companies were present.

"The case is still pending and hearings are still ongoing at the NTC. We have to evaluate our options first. We'll make our final legal position when we get copies of documents from both Nextel and Smart," Bell Telecommunication Philippines Inc. internal legal adviser Rene Macamay told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Also present during the hearing were representatives of Globe Telecom and Bayan Telecommunications Inc.

Nextel, on the other hand, denied allegations that it was illegally operating an IGF.

"We course our traffic through a licensed IGF operator, one of the 11 or 12 licensed by the NTC. We're conducting a legitimate commercial operation," Nextel president Emilio Festejo told the INQUIRER in a phone interview last week.

He said the other carriers were just hurling accusations at Nextel because its IDD (international distance dialing) rate was pegged at 30 US cents a minute, 10 cents lower than the prevailing rates.

"Just because we're offering something for less doesn't mean we're doing something illegal," Festejo added.

"I believe that business is a public service, but we can only do so much. Besides, we won't do anything illegal or we might as well kiss our business goodbye," he said.

Meantime, Nextel has written the NTC last Friday for help in negotiating with Globe for interconnection.

PCA warns DTI chief on cement inquiry

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Constructors Association Inc. is planning to file a case against Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II for alleged grave abuse of authority when he gave in to the demands of Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. to investigate the surge in cement imports.

PCA executive director Manolito P. Madrasto claimed that Roxas ordered the Department of Trade and Industry to push through with the investigation of cement imports in May even though there was no prima facie evidence that cement imports were hurting the local industry.

"How could the DTI conclude that the local industry was being hurt by imports when Philcemcor's documents to prove its case were up to September 2000 only? How could the secretary diagnose an industry's illness based on its records eight months ago?" Madrasto asked.

Madrasto claimed that Philcemcor did not submit its latest figures because it would show that imports have not caused them harm since they were being sold at the same price as the local cement.

Jesus Arranza, chair of the Confederation of Homeowners Associations for Reforms in Governance and Environment (Charge), said there was no basis for Philcemcor's petition because both local and imported cement were being sold at P145 per 40-kilogram bag. Arranza said it was quality rather than the price that has been driving consumers to imports because local cement was below world standards.

When PCA questioned the DTI on its alleged abuse of authority, Madrasto said the agency replied that Roxas had discretion to decide on any case under the Safeguard Measures Act.

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Mr. Allan Abesamis
VP - Finance
Tel.# 890-4015 / 897-6489

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MECO MANNING & CREWING SERVICES
Ms. Edith Rabe, Accountant
Tel.# 526-7892 / 526-7855

TAHANAN MUTUAL BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, INC.
Ms. Lana Suarez, Accountant
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Accounting Manager
Tel. #840-4965

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Ms. Carmelita Rulloda
Chief Accountant
Tel.# 723-8221

EMILIO S. LIM APPLIANCES
Ms. Marie Selorio
Chief Accountant
Tel.# 729-6144 or 46

FIL-ESTATE GROUP
Ms. Helenita M. Guel
Senior Supervisor
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MAKATI SPORTS "A"/"B"	0.43M/0.45M	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	900,000
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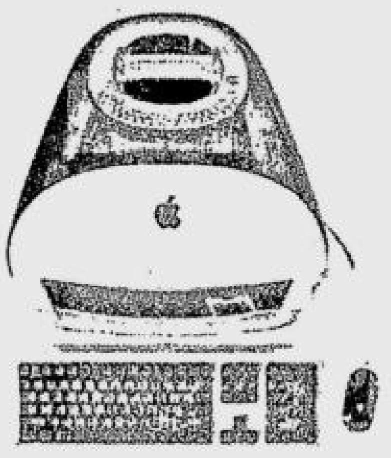

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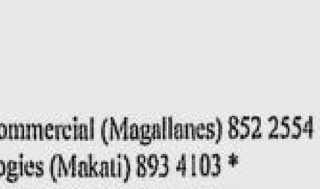

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Presidential Commission on Good Government

INVITATION TO BID

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) invites offers to purchase by way of sealed bidding the following properties:

Location	Description	Floor Price
BAGUIO CITY		
Outlook Drive (North), Baguio City	(Hans Menzi Compound) 3,875.57 square meters, more or less, of residential land with improvements under Lot 30 of Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-35742.	P 40,000,000.00
Outlook Drive (North), Baguio City	(Jose Y. Campos Compound) 17,516.20 square meters, more or less, of residential land with improvements under Transfer Certificate of Title Nos. T-49479, 49480 and 49481.	P 148,000,000.00
Outlook Drive (North), and Baguio-Itogon Road, Baguio City	(Wigwam Compound) 1,146 square meters, more or less, of residential land with improvements under Lot 2, Tsi-1-2-60580.	P 12,000,000.00
Outlook Drive (North), Baguio City	(Banaue Inn Compound) 2,677 square meters, more or less, of residential land under Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-37014.	P 6,200,000.00
EDSA, MANDALUYONG CITY		
EDSA corner Berkely Street, Mandaluyong City (in front of SM Megamall)	2,013 square meters, more or less, of commercial land under Transfer Certificate of Title No. 390162.	P 90,600,000.00
CALOOCAN CITY		
Maligaya Street, Pangarap Village, Makatipo, Tala, Caloocan City (North)	300 square meters, more or less, of residential land under Certificate of Title No. C-30047.	P 250,000.00
Matahimik Street, Pangarap Village, Makatipo, Tala, Caloocan City (North)	300 square meters, more or less, of residential land under Certificate of Title No. T-131830.	P 250,000.00
Kingswood Street, Emerald Court Subdivision, Camarin, Caloocan City (North)	480 square meters, more or less, of residential land under Transfer Certificate of Title Nos. T-103234 and T-103235.	P 1,000,000.00
CEBU CITY		
Barangay Lahug, Beverly Hills, Cebu City	1,445 square meters, more or less, of residential land, under Transfer Certificate of Title No. 61559.	P 10,500,000.00

Complete descriptions/specifications of the properties, including bidding guidelines, bid forms and instruction to bidders are available for a fee of PESOS: ONE THOUSAND ONLY (P1,000.00) at the PCGG Privatization Secretariat c/o Ms. Estrella F. Tigas or Ms. Alma M. Provido at the 3rd Floor IRC Building, #82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City from **August 7** to **17, 2001** from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pre-bid conference will be held on **August 24, 2001** at 3:00 p.m. at the PCGG Conference Room, Ground Floor, IRC Building, #82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

Sealed bids should be dropped at the Bid Box on August 29, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. at the abovementioned address.

The sale of properties shall be on **"As Is, Where Is"** and **CASH BASIS** only.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or any part thereof, waives any formality or requirements contained therein and will accept the offer it considers as the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **JORGE V. SARMIENTO**
Commissioner
Chairman, PCGG Privatization Committee

(PDI - Aug. 5, 6 & 7, 2001)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Juan Anacleto F. Fortich has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs on June 11, 2001 under Doc#170; Page #51; Book#1;Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Joseph L. Guevarra of Muntinlupa, Metro Manila (PDI-July 24,July31&Aug 7,2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY
O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles, O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

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FELINOR TESTON TRIBIANA

of Bato, Catanduanes
(1935 — 2001)
Died on August 02, 2001 at the age of 65.

His bereaved loving wife **Rosalina**; children **Edwin, Romy, Jun, Ma. Vilma, Ma. Victoria, Jovie**; daughters-in-law, grandchildren, brothers, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Veronica Memorial Chapel, Libertad Street, Pasay City.

Interment will be on Thursday, August 09, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. at Heritage Memorial Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro manila

Beloved Wife, Mother & Lola

Wilhelmina "Wewe" Goquingco Castro

of Arayat, Pampanga and Quezon City
passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 4, 2001 at the age of 63.

Her bereaved husband **Ding (Candido, Sr.)**; children **Rina, Riza, Cherry & Joel, Annette & Chris, Dindo & Janice, Corina & Rex**; grandchildren **Dinnice, Beya, Julian, Gabby & Sofia**; brothers, sisters and in-laws, thank God for having Blessed us with someone like her and her peaceful passing.

The body lies in state at Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, Broadway New Manila, Quezon City until 5:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 8, 2001 and interment will be after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Arayat, Pampanga.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.
John 3:16

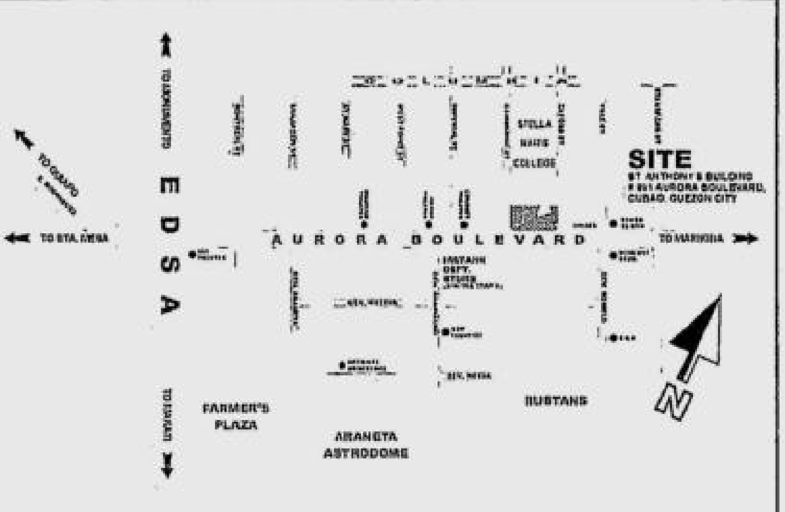
DR. FRANCISCO MATEO AQUINO

of Vallejo California, USA and Batangas City
passed peacefully on August 2, 2001 at the age of 69.

His bereaved wife **Milagros Limjoco Aquino**; His loving children **Gene & Imelda de Dios. Frank & Marilyn Baker, John & Lorna Tayag, Ferdinand & Bernadette, Albert & Monina Ambat, John & Cora Abrera, Bernadette, Francisco Jr. & Mary, Renato & Alisa**; His grandchildren **Gerald & Gabby, Michelle & Mallory, Julie & Matthew, Gian, Stephanie & Andrew, Jessica & Johanna, Nina**; Brothers **Emiliano Jr., Ernesto, Jose, Antonio, Manolo** and sister, **Lourdes**, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Mortuary of the Basilica of Immaculate Conception, Batangas City.

Interment will be held on Wednesday August 8, 2001 at the Roman Catholic Cemetery after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.



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REMIGIO CHUA

(CO PUE LIM)

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on August 3, 2001 at the age of 65.

His remains lie in state at Resurrection 1, Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, August 8, 2001 at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Baesa, Kalookan City.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.
2 Cor. 4:14

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16

JETHER JAMES ALAMEDA CASTILLO

6 June 1984 -- 2 August 2001

JET-JET WE LOVE YOU

Your beloved parents **Jemuel** and **Esther**; your loving brothers **Jal, Jo** and **Jun**; your dear friend **Eunice**; and your uncles, aunts, cousins and other relatives.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 12, 2001, 2:00 p.m. after the Worship Service at 10 Korea Street, Greenheights, Nangka, Marikina.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE.

DR. PEDRO M. REYES, JR.

Dr. Pedro M. Reyes, Jr. of Quezon City
passed away on the 5th of August 2001 at the age of 81.

He is survived by his widow **Virginia Evangelista Reyes**; his brother **Conrado Reyes**, and his children **Pietro** and **Lala, Norman, Dennis** and **Arlene**, and **Ariel**, and grandchildren **Katherine, Justin** and **James**.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City until 11:00 p.m. of Wednesday, the 8th of August 2001. The Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

Private interment (immediate family only) will be on the 9th of August 2001.

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INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if later found eligible/qualified, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title : Landscaping Works along PICC Perimeter Fence
Scope of Work : Work includes furnishing of materials, labor, plant, tools, equipment and other services and performing all operations necessary for the completion of the proposed Landscaping Works for the PICC Complex, all in accordance with the specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.
Project Location : PICC Complex, Pasay City
Approved Budget : Pesos One Million Six Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Twenty (P1,658,520.00)
Source of Funding : Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)
PCAB License Classification : IAC Category Small (Park, Playground and Recreational Work)
Contractor's Construction Experience in Similar Project : Have completed in the past five (5) years at least three (3) landscaping projects each costing at least two (2) Million Pesos preferably on landscape construction and/or development for commercial and institutional buildings requiring high end finishes and excellent workmanship of financial institutions, hotels and commercial establishment and other of similar or greater complexity.
Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate Req't. : Pesos One Hundred Seventy Thousand (P170,000.00).
Prequalification/Eligibility Statement Forms
Cost of Forms : Two Hundred Pesos per set (P200.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance : August 07 to 22, 2001 / 9:30 AM to 12:00 NN & 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Eligibility/Statement Documents : AHCPP Secretariat Rm. 204 (Tel. No. 524-7011 local 3143) 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo (former V. Cruz) Streets, Manila
Deadline of Submission : August 28, 2001 / 4:00 PM
Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility
Date and Time of Issuance : September 24, 2001 / 9:30 AM to 12:00 NN & 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM
Place of Issuance : AHCPP Secretariat Rm. 204
Bid/Tender Documents : Shall be issued only to eligible/prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.
Cost of Documents/Place of Issuance : Five Thousand Pesos per set (5,000.00/set) AHCPP Secretariat Rm. 204
Date and Time of Issuance : September 24 to 28, 2001 / 9:30 AM to 12:00 NN & 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM
Pre-bid Conference
Date and Time : October 1, 2001 / 9:30 AM
Venue : BMD Conference Room/2nd Floor - Five Storey Building, BSP Complex
Submission and Opening of Bids
Deadline/Venue of Submission : October 18, 2001 / 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM / AHCPP Secretariat Room 204

BID OPENING WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Schedule for issuance of notice of eligibility/ineligibility up to deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of PD 1594 and its implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules & regulations shall apply relative to pre-qualification/eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids & award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) MBM JUAN QUINTOS, JR.
AHCPP - Co-Chairman

(Sgd.) MBM VICENTE B. VALDEPENAS, JR.
AHCPP - Chairman

(PDI - Aug. 7 & 10 2001)

INVITATION TO BID

The AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits Systems (RSBS) invites interested parties to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties:

Item No.	Description	Location	Minimum/ Floor Price
1-01	2,016 sq.m. industrial lot	Bulacan Agro-Industrial Subd. McArthur Hiway, Calumpit, Bulacan	P6.7M
2-01	1,803 sq.m. industrial lot	- do -	P6.48 M
3-01	1,871 sq.m. industrial lot	- do -	P6.725 M
4-01	1,800 sq.m. industrial lot	- do -	P6.47 M
5-01	1,958 sq.m. industrial lot	- do -	P7.04 M
6-01	27,419 sq.m. commercial/ industrial lot	Sumulong Hiway, dela Paz Antipolo City	P101 M
7-01	5,270 sq.m. industrial lot with 2,493 sq.m. floor area factory building	1st St., Manalac Industrial Estate, Taguig, Metro Manila	P53.8 M
8-01	4,610 sq.m. agricultural land w/ 2 residential bldgs.	Bo. Langkiwa, Biñan, Lag.	P2 M
9-01	2 agricultural lot with total combined land area of 10,071 sq.m.	Bagong Pook, San Jose Batangas	P500 T
10-01	8,008 sq.m. agricultural land	Anao, Tarlac	P320 T
11-01	13 hectares residential raw land	Mapalad, Sta. Rosa Nueva Ecija	P42 M
12-01	367 sq.m. residential lot	Nuestra Sra dela Paz Subd. Bgy dela Paz, Antipolo City	P850 T

Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents starting **August 8, 2001** upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500 pesos from the Office of the Head, Property Management Branch, REMD, 3/F, RSBS Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

A Pre-Bidding Conference is scheduled on **August 15, 2001** at 10:00 AM, Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives on **August 20, 2001** at 10:00 AM at the Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

For further inquiries, you can call MS. LIZA HIZON at telephone numbers 9124718 or 9114071 local 249.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT BRANCH

(PDI – Aug. 5, 6 & 7, 2001)

MAKE A CAREER CHOICE ONLINE.

People, Events & Products

Aries B. Espinosa, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Jollibee, union sign 5-year CBA pact

FASTFOOD leader Jollibee Foods Corporation (JFC) has set a milestone in the country's labor-management cooperation by being the first company to use the new Study Team Negotiation (STN) approach in its entirety in a new five-year collective bargaining agreement (CBA). The latest CBA negotiation, the company's seventh since 1980, took only a record-breaking 12 sessions for management and union to come to an agreement.

According to UP-School of Labor and Industrial Relations (UP-Solair) professor Juan Amor Palafox, "The STN approach is a process through which parties who see different aspects of a problem can constructively explore their differences and search for solutions that go beyond their own limited version of what is possible." Palafox was chosen by Jollibee officials to facilitate its CBA negotiations using the STN approach.

JFC executive vice president Ernesto Tanmantiong, on the other hand, said that "when JFC decided to use the STN approach, everybody knew that we will be able to come up with a CBA that is mutually beneficial to both parties. It is definitely a win-win situation." Tanmantiong added the latest CBA indicates the high level of maturity that both JFC management and employees have achieved.

Union president Alex Rutagines expressed his gratitude to the Jollibee management for "using the STN process and for being transparent with all the documents needed during the CBA negotiations."

"The openness and support between the two parties have created an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding. This is the kind of relationship which enables companies like Jollibee to succeed and become a leader in the fastfood industry. We would like to give credit to the inspiring leadership of the Tan brothers in making the company's CBA a successful venture. We hope this will serve as a precedent for other corporations to follow and use this innovative approach," Avelino Valerio, vice president of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines-Kilusan said.

Under the new CBA, Jollibee has restructured the salary and benefit package for new regular employees, thus bringing the company's labor cost to a more competitive level, and enabling it to pursue growth initiatives in the coming years. The parties also agreed to a transparency and "shared responsibility" approach in dealing with future problems, as well as the implementation of the STN in future CBA negotiations.

SMART SIGNS $195-M LOAN DEAL

Smart Communications Inc. has recently signed a multi-tranche loan facility with various financial institutions for a total of $195 million, the proceeds of which will be used to finance phase five of Smart's GSM network expansion. The agreements were signed recently with Napoleon L. Nazareno, president and CEO of Smart, signing on behalf of the company. Present during the signing were the senior officers of Smart, Citibank, ING and other banks participating in the loan. Shown are (seated) Smart president and CEO Napoleon Nazareno (right) and chief financial adviser Peter Lawrence (left); Citibank executives Patrick Brockie, regional head for structured trade finance Asia Pacific (standing extreme left) and Raissa Hechanova, vice chair of Citicorp Capital Philippines (standing second from left); ING executives Lloyd Fischer, managing director and head of telecoms for Asia (standing seventh from the right) and Robert Scholten, head of loan syndication for Asia (standing fourth from right); Verona Juanengo, director for corporate finance, Societe Generale Manila (standing sixth from right).

special raffle for KIDS
MAY 30 2001
(PHIL.), INC.
TIBANK TO
AKATI CITY

KIDDI PHARMATON AWARDS PLAN

Kiddi Pharmaton recently awarded 44 winners in the multivitamin brand's special raffle for kids. The first prize, a Prudentialife educational plan worth almost P600,000, went to Bianca Nikola Lastima, shown above with mother Annie Gisela Lastima. Awarding Bianca's prize are (from left) Abet Miteria, sales manager, Prudentialife; Ricky Maximo, sales advisor, Prudentialife; Godofredo Ruiz, marketing director, Boehringer Ingelheim (Phils.) Inc.; Ma. Rhodora Guerrero, group product manager, Boehringer Ingelheim and Erwin Guilas, product manager, Boehringer Ingelheim.

RCBC Savings Bank opens new centers in Calmelray, Science Park II

RCBC Savings Bank has opened two new business centers in Carmelray and Science Park II in Calamba, Laguna to service the banking requirements of locators in the special economic zone.

The Carmelray business center is along the national highway in Barangay Tulo, while the Science Park II center is on the ground floor of the Marcelita building in Barangay Real. Both are in the municipality of Calamba.

RCBC Savings Bank has also transferred the operations of four of its branches. Its Tagbilaran, Bohol branch has been relocated to Bogo, Cebu, while the branch in Tacloban, Leyte has been moved to Maasin in Southern Leyte.

Other relocations are the San Juan office in Bacolod (from Jaro, Iloilo) and Naga City branch (from Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro).

The Bogo business center is at the Citi Appliance building on Dela Viña Street; the Maasin center is on Tomas Oppus Street; the San Juan Center is at the ICC building in Bacolod City; and the Naga City center is on General Luna Street.

COOL HAT TRICK FOR ALEN

For the third straight year, Alen Group of Companies has been awarded by the Consumer Union of the Philippines as the most outstanding manufacturer of air conditioners. Alen Group of Companies, 35 years in the business for domestic and international markets, was given this recognition on the basis of consumers' assessment and acceptance. President and CEO Jun V. Lagman poses with the trophies.

STA. LUCIA
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ABS-CBN DRAMA STARS AT STA. LUCIA

The stars of the latest 'teleseryes' of ABS-CBN held a grand fans day dubbed 'Araw ng Teleserye' at Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall's fountain area. The venue was jampacked with fans and spectators awaiting their favorite stars from 'Recuerdo de Amor', 'Pangako sa Yo', 'Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan', and the newest primetime soap 'Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka'. Hosts Janet McBride and Gabe Mercado (center) introduce the all-star cast of 'Sa Dulo...' Angela Velez, Don Laurel, Justin Cuyugan and Carlos Agassi.

JWT tops guild awards

THE ADVERTISING community honored J. Walter Thompson Manila when it won two Ad of the Year awards and two runner-up awards in the 2000 Creative Guild Awards night.

JWT Manila won the radio public service ad of the year for the 'Filipino Time' spot for MindShare and Audiopost; the print public service ad of the year award for 'Helmet' by the Club 2000 Freedom Riders and Summit Publications; the first runner-up public service print ad of the year award for 'Mammography' by the Zonta Club of Makati. Environs Foundation and Women Today; the second runner-up ad of the year for Joy Bathroom Tissue's 'Serena' commercial.

The Creative Guild is the association of the ad industry's creative directors formed to help upgrade the quality of Philippine advertising.

Recently, JWT Manila's Listerine TV and print ads received citations from the New York Advertising Festivals.

VITAMINS A & D

VANDOL RAFFLE DRAW

Vandol conducted a raffle promotion exclusively for Mercury Drug loyal customers. The draw was held at the training room of Schering Plough in the presence of BFAD representative Ciony Buenaobra (second from right). Present during the grand draw were (from left) Len Jose, merchandiser; Mar C. Marron, AVP for merchandising division; Cora Sy-Lim, purchasing director of Mercury Drug Corporation and Catherine A. Vergara, OTC division manager of Schering Plough Corporation.

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SUN LIFE SPONSORS ROYAL WINNIPEG BALLET

Sun Life Financial was one of the major sponsors of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Asian Tour that brought the group to perform in Manila, Beijing and Hong Kong. With its outstanding repertoire and artistic excellence, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet has built a tradition of exporting world-class interpretations of ballet. Shown is Alex Narciso, AVP for sales, Sun Life of Canada (Philippines) Inc. turning over to Canadian Ambassador Robert Collete the Sun Life Financial donation to the RWB tour.

Asia business strategies lecture

KRASNOSTEIN

PROFESSOR John Krasnostein, MBA program chair and senior lecturer on Asia-Pacific Business Strategies in Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia, was in Manila recently to conduct a lecture titled 'Asia-Pacific Economies: Problems and Prospects.' Present during the affair were key leaders of the Philippine business and educational communities. Professor Krasnostein cited the need for Western firms to take the time to learn about the Asian partner's country, history, politics and culture. He added that Western firms seeking to establish joint ventures with Asian partners need to take a patient and disciplined approach.

BITS Clips

PNC/PNU alumni reunion

ALL PNC/PNU-Lab School Alumni (elementary and high school) shall have a grand reunion on Aug. 12, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the PNU Campus. For details, call the principal's office at 527-0997.

Voice of the Philippines 2001 search on

SUNRISE Entertainment Co. is inviting all interested high school students, male or female, 14 to 16 years old, with a remarkable singing voice, pleasing personality and presently studying in a reputable school, to join the highly acclaimed "Voice of the Philippines 2001" nationwide search for singing stars, inter-high school competition. Ten official representatives from GMA/Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will vie for the title. For details call 632-7852 or visit Unit 727 Cityland Shaw Tower, Shaw Boulevard corner St. Francis Street, Mandaluyong City.

'The Traveler' on Aug. 9

MARGE Enriquez, in cooperation with RCBC Plaza, presents "The Traveler" multi-media dance concert at the RCBC Plaza Galleria (corridor between Tower 1 and 2), Aug. 9 at 7:30 p.m. The show consists of poetry about the soul at the crossroad of life and how it reaches its destination through spiritual power. Directed by Katsch Catoy, the show is a collaboration of the different art forms. Choreographer Gerald Mercado and video director Ed Lejano interpret the poetry of Australian writer Barbara Ramsay. National Artist for music Lucrecia Kasilag will premier new works to be rendered by the Philippine Women's University Music Ensemble. Impy Pilapil will create installations to complement the production design of Antonio Salac Santos and Rachy Cuna. Joe Salazar and Marden Iglesias will make the costumes. Special makeup is by Patrick Rosas and Avon. The dancers include Dwight Rodrigazo, Orlando de Leon, Rency delos Santos and Nino Guevarra. The show is sponsored by Belo Medical Group, Bench/Herbench, Globe, RX 93.1, Philips Electronics, Anonymous, AV-1 Media, Ayala Corporation, Cinderella, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Dusit Nikko Hotel, Euromode, French Baker, Le Souffle, Philippine Ballet Theater, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philips, Replay, Rustan's, SM, Store Specialists Inc., The Palm Country Club, Volvo, Westin Health Club and Wish.

Bring on the waffles with all the fixins

COUNTRY Waffles chooses Camp John Hay as its second home. Timeless balladeer Bert Nievera promises to delight people not only with songs of forever that warm the heart, but now, with food that will elicit a round of bravos and encores.

Nievera and his team have rolled up their sleeves to work on a make-over for cottage 662 near Igorot Lodge (AIM) and behind the 12th Tee of the Camp John Hay golf course. The make-over promises a pleasant country home akin to the ''Little House on the Prairie''. Matched by waffles, served with cream, peaches and other toppings to make this old-fashioned breakfast a nice treat to wake up to. An offering of home recipes like fresh salmon steak served with creamed spinach; farmer's skillet--a thick slice of ham surrounded by baked potato wedges, black angus *tapa* which has become a bestseller, although intended as a breakfast offering, has become an all-day favorite.

Country Waffles Holdings Inc., with Bert Nievera as its chair, has various branches around Manila: Ayala, Greenhills and Glorietta. Operating almost 22 hours a day, Country Waffles in Manila maintains a steady stream of clients hungry for that old home-cooked meal.

Country Waffles set against the pine forest at Camp John Hay makes for a perfect match and an everyday treat for the Baguio folk and their guests. One can imagine that when it opens in this forest destination, one will see the start of the old John Hay flavor returning.

PHILAM PLANS GETS CUP NOD

The Consumers Union of the Philippines (CUP) recently awarded the Anca statuette to Philam Plans, voted as the most outstanding pre-need company, during the 12th Annual National Consumers Awards ceremony at the Manila Hotel. Shown handing over the statuette to Philam Plans senior vice president and head of marketing Luie Dy Buncio are CUP president Quirino Marquinez and secretary general Lily Nicolas (third and fourth from left, respectively) as executive vice president Bishop Dr. Sonia Lim looks on.

Government-private sector housing policy to be forged

By Charlie V. Gorayeb

GORAYEB

THE CREBA'S 2001 National Convention on Oct. 18-20, is now a Prehousing Summit National Convention, a prelude to the Housing Summit being convened by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo a week later. The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chaired by Secretary Michael T. Defensor and Creba are busy threshing out the details of the joint program.

This interlinking of the convention and the Housing Summit demonstrates the importance of each event. The first will be a jump-off by both the private sector and the government in their united effort to formally reach a national consensus, a broad perspective, on a coordinated approach to the crisis of homelessness in this country. This will be formally presented and discussed at the Housing Summit to be presided by the President herself.

Earlier, in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) before Congress, President Macapagal had outlined the government's financing initiatives that will comprise the basic elements of the new housing program. She vowed a P20-billion appropriation as part of seed money that will fire off a sustainable housing finance scheme. The fund will be combined with the P50 billion coming from the unused portions of the Agri-Agra Fund, and the P10-billion contribution of the Pag-Ibig Fund, and a P5-billion contribution each from the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System. The money will total P90 billion, a sufficient seed money to begin an earnest housing program.

The mechanics of operating a common housing fund, the infrastructure that will directly pursue the overall housing program, a land access policy and the authority to adjudicate disputes over land uses, will have to be mapped out by the government. Recently, Creba has repackaged its housing advocacy to incorporate its basic proposals into an omnibus congressional bill seeking to establish a Department of Housing and Urban Development. Creba's proposals cover a comprehensive home financing scheme and the other features designed to help ensure an aggressive and effective total approach to the housing problem.

The joint gathering will bring together industry leaders and government housing moguls at the Creba convention at the Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel in Bacolod City. A full convention attendance is thus expected.

President Macapagal, hopefully, will grace the occasion as keynote speaker during the opening day program.

The issues to be discussed during the workshops are housing regulation, licensing and land conversion to be tackled by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Land Registration Authority.

Housing production will be taken up by the National Housing Authority and the private sector, while housing finance by the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund), Home Guaranty Corp., SSS, GSIS, Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Expected to be on hand during the workshops are Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani A. Braganza, Pag-Ibig Fund president and chief executive officer Manuel C. Crisostomo, Home Guaranty Corp. president Gonzalo Bongolan, HLURB commissioner-CEO Romulo Q. Fabul, National Housing Authority general manager Edgardo D. Pamintuan, SSS president Corazon dela Paz and GSIS president and general manager Winston F. Garcia and administrator Senecio O. Ortile of the Land Registration Authority.

During the Housing Forum, which follows immediately the President's speech, Secretary Defensor will talk on "Housing: Policy and Directions." The chairpersons of the Senate and House of Representatives committees on housing and urban development will discuss their priority legislative agenda.

By the way, a helpful feature of the Creba convention will be the Business Matching Program that seeks to match the resources, services and need of participants with those of others through mutually beneficial complementation. The program was successfully launched in last year's convention.

This year, in its effort to better fulfill its commitments, the Creba Youth, which is spearheading the program, is preparing several improvements in the event. The 2001 version features two sessions—one in Manila and another in Bacolod during the convention. These arrangements will make the program more flexible to participants and accommodate the anticipated increase in participants.

As the recent changes in government leadership bring more opportunities to the housing and real estate industries, said Jaime C. Millan, Creba Youth chair, the business matching program this year will give the participants more chances to meet new business partners, colleagues and friends.

(Gorayeb is the national president of Creba.)

CONSTRUCTION IN FULL SWING

Greenhills Garden Square, a highly successful residential project of housing developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc., has already reached the 40 percent completion mark. Already topped off and done with roofing and masonry works, clusters 1, 2, 3 and 4 are undergoing work for partitions, lofts and stairs. Structural works for clusters 5, 6 and 7 are already at the 15th, 4th and 1st levels, respectively, while excavation work is under way for cluster 8. Plumbing, electrical, mechanical, fire protection and finishing works are also ongoing. The project is expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2003. Situated on Boni Serrano Avenue near Greenhills, the nine-cluster, 778-unit project features a 2-story clubhouse, tennis court, minitheater and a swimming pool.

Property market still viable

PEOPLE, who intend to enter the property business today, do have great income opportunities, according to renowned dean of real estate, Rodolfo G. Valencia, chief executive officer and chair of the RGV Group.

In a published report, Valencia said, basically prices are down, primarily attributed to the change in supply and demand. Likewise, the eco-political crunch has brought out prime lands, which were not for sale before, at attractive low prices, Valencia added.

Said Valencia "Historically, the real estate sector seems to follow a boom and bust cycle. There were the bust years of 1984 to 1986 followed by the boom periods under the Aquino administration in 1987 to 1989. Then the best periods occurred in 1994 to 1997, until a crippling Asian financial crisis put a halt to the heyday under the Ramos administration. The lowest point for the real estate sector in recent years came at the close of 2000 and the beginning of 2001."

Notwithstanding the currency and economic crisis, Valencia asserted many still believe there are still huge positive signs for the real estate and housing industry.

To date, Valencia stressed, a big plus for the housing sector is the pro housing stance of Speaker Jose de Venecia whose landmark pieces of legislation enacted during his tenure a few years back as a first-time Speaker include the Comprehensive Integrated Shelter Financing Act and the Amendment to the Charter of the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund). The amendment restored the pension fund's mandatory coverage and strengthened its capability to assist in the provision of housing to its low- and middle-income members. These laws were at a time a big help in the government's effort to cope with the increasing backlog of housing units.

Now on his second term, De Venecia's "Antipoverty Action Plan" seeks to revive economic recovery and envisions a 7 percent economic growth for the next 7 years. This action plan aims to concentrate on fighting mass poverty and enable millions of Filipinos to cross over into the middle class by the year 2010.

In addition, Valencia said, still another positive indicator for the real estate industry includes the trend of rapid urbanization and commercial or professional convergence at certain choice locations which carry along with it the attendant implications of residence-work location distances as well as increased commuting and vehicular traffic.

With the current situation, windfall prices on real estate and property previously unheard of are fast becoming available. At a bargain basement price today, real estate and property acquired now can easily pay back its initial cost many times over the next 5 to 10 years.

However, Valencia emphasized that in the light of opportunities and threats seen in the real estate industry, the necessity for the professional group that would undertake all real estate requirement cannot be overstated.

Residential condominium in Greenbelt

GREENBELT Radissons, the newest residential condominium project of property developer Megaworld Corp. in the Makati central business district, fits perfectly into the spirit of renewal that marks the Greenbelt area, a bustling commercial and leisure district now undergoing a major facelift.

Bounded by Soria and Aguirre Streets, a stone's throw away from the Legaspi Park, the 31-story neo-contemporary Greenbelt Radissons boasts a prime location close to the country's top business addresses—the trendy Greenbelt and Glorietta malls, exclusive sports clubs and a host of other key destinations including the Asian Institute of Management.

The luxury condominium offers studio and one- and two-bedroom units targeted to a Makati-based market made up of young, rising executives and businessmen. Confirming its reputation as a power address is a wealth of amenities and features including an in-house administrative staff providing assistance in computer, fax and photocopying services, a multipurpose function room, minigym, swimming pool, laundromat and multilevel podium parking. Each unit comes with a balcony that affords superb panoramic views of the Makati skyline.

On top of its strategic location and superior amenities, Greenbelt Radissons comes with a choice of highly flexible and customer-friendly financing packages. Buyers may choose between the no-down-payment-and-no-reservation-scheme or the low monthly amortization terms being offered.

With the dearth of notable condominium developments resulting from the cautious mindset of most property developers, Greenbelt Radissons has enjoyed a favorable market reception since its May 2001 launch.

For those interested, a model unit is available for viewing at the Megaworld showroom located at the second floor of The World Centre Building on Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

HOUSING 'ON THE AIR'

Housing buyers, borrowers, property developers and related stakeholders now have a chance to interact with the heads of the government housing agencies with the recent launch of "Ugnayang Pabahay, Atbpa," a weekly radio program of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, aired every Saturday, 8-9 a.m. over dzAR-AM (1026 khz, Angel Radio). At the inaugural broadcast are National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. president Angelico T. Salud, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board Commissioner and CEO Romulo Q. Fabul, National Housing Authority assistant general manager Jopet Sison, Home Guaranty Corp. president Gonzalo Bongolan, Home Development Fund president and CEO Manuel C. Crisostomo, Undersecretary Armando de Castro of the HUDCC and program anchorperson Cesar Chavez.

Bay Gardens' on-schedule work boosts Japanese firm's venture

THE FAMOUS Manila Bay sunset will soon be a regular day-ender to unit owners of Bay Gardens, a 5-tower condominium complex in Metropolitan Park on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The turnover of completed units by its developer, Baywatch Realty Inc., will start in early December.

The early turnover of the completed units in the first 18-story tower reflects the trust and judgment that foreign companies involved in the projects have placed on the Bay Gardens project.

A major partner in the project is Mitsui & Co. Ltd., a joint-venture partner in the 38-hectare Metropolitan Park and its residence condominium complex, Bay Gardens.

"We examine projects we join with the view of the first-class quality within the global standard. We are cautious that the projects we join will not spoil our customers' trust and Mitsui's name," the company said.

Mitsui has done a joint venture with other property development projects in Asia. Its most recent ventures were with Hong Leong Group in a condominium project in Singapore; Bangkok Bank Group in office buildings and condominiums in Thailand; a condominium project in Indonesia; and for an industrial park in Myanmar .

In Europe, Mitsui was involved in the Docklands Light Railway Lewisham Line, one of the first private finance initiative projects of the United Kingdom.

In the Philippines, Mitsui's joint venture with the Metrobank Group is for the development of the 38-hectare Metropolitan Park in a property on Roxas Boulevard corner Edsa. Mitsui is also involved in a joint venture with Federal Homes Inc. for the development of Bay Gardens, a 5-tower, 18-story residential condominium in Metropolitan Park.

Mitsui said its joint venture with the two companies was encouraged by the group's steady financial management even though other companies in Asia are still struggling with the economic crisis.

Another Japanese company that has chosen to be part of the Metropolitan Park and Bay Gardens project is Sumitomo Construction Co. Ltd. through its local subsidiary, Sumicon Philippines Corp.

Although Bay Gardens is the first residential property development for the company, Sumitomo is backed by a strong reputation built by 300 years of history.

The project is basically marketed by the in-house sales network of Bay-Watch Realty, Rehaus Inc. and Spacework Realty Inc. Inquiries can be made at Tel. Nos. 818-43-88 or 818-97-81.

Metropolitan Park development directions have included a hospital, community and cultural centers, and other residential high-rises.

LEASE CONTRACT

Makati Shangri-La Manila and D. Cinema In-Style recently signed a lease contract to locate the latter's newest showroom at the second floor of the hotel's Ayala Arcade. D. Cinema In-style, an excellent provider of fine digital entertainment products, complements the existing upscale tenant base of the hotel and the high street shop of Ayala Avenue. Jones Lang LaSalle facilitated the retail expansion of the tenant into the hotel. Shown are Richard Riley, general manager of Makati Shangri-La Manila, and JR Pecaoco, owner of D.Cinema In-Style.

Carmelray II gets 7 new locators

SEVEN new foreign investors, among them an IT call center and three Japanese firms, have located in the Carmelray Industrial Park II in Calamba, Laguna, this year with investments totaling roughly $10 million.

This brings a total number of 33 locators including expansions of existing locators such as Psi Technologies and Miyoshi Technologies Inc. in CIP II. Psi already had two expansions while Miyoshi had one expansion within the park.

The new investors are the following:

- Tungaloy Seimitsu Philippines Inc., a Singapore-based firm that manufactures cartridge tooling for the semiconductor industry;
- HKT Philippines Inc., a Japanese firm engaged in manufacturing of component parts;
- Engtek Precision Philippines Inc., a Malaysian firm that manufactures hard-disk drive components;
- MTE Technology Inc., a Singaporean firm whose main product mix includes jigs, turned parts, fabrication and assembly of custom-built machines, design and automation, CNC wire cutting and EDM and Super Drill services;
- Philippines Tohbe Corp., a Japanese firm that manufactures medical devices;
- Takata Physics (Philippines) Inc., a Japanese firm that manufactures casings for laptops;
- Content Sciences Inc., a local firm that provides data conversion services.

CIP II was developed by Carmelray-JTCi Corp., which is a joint venture between Carmelray Industrial Corp. and Ascendas Pte. Ltd. in Singapore.

Astoria Plaza setting the trend of serviced residences in Ortigas

THE BOOMING business district of Ortigas in Pasig City, south of Metro Manila, takes pride in the emergence of a mixed-use asset—the Astoria Plaza Hotel—a fully serviced all-suites residential apartment on J. Escriva (formerly Amber) Avenue.

Tucked in an elite community of posh villages where travel and trade industry players hold court, the Astoria Plaza Hotel recently opened its doors to various markets—foreign/local individual and group tourists, corporate accounts, leisure crowd, among others.

A blue chip in the district, Astoria Plaza is a major project of Cathay Land Inc., one of the country's top real estate firms. The property was built as a full-serviced apartment with 40 percent residential units. Thus, it is a trendsetter in the mixed-use property in Ortigas, Pasig City.

Mixed-use properties like the Astoria Plaza are trendy among developers in Europe and the Americas. Worldwide surveys show that discriminating businessmen and tourists prefer staying in security-tight but convenience-laden serviced apartments.

Here at Astoria Plaza, they get the best of both worlds—a homey ambience enhanced with amenities and services of a deluxe hotel. With a few units left for sale and/or lease, the property is on the finishing stage. It is being spruced up for the grand opening before the year ends.

A spacious ground floor boasts of a cozy and unpretentious lobby clad in neo-classic shades of black and white. It exudes a very business-like appeal that's inviting, not intimidating. On the same level is the Astoria Café that serves breakfast and lunch and is a watering hole to businessmen after five.

Four function rooms can be found on the second floor that can hold up to 200 guests in a banquet. The third floor is being reserved for additional function rooms and numerous concessionaires. The same floor will include soon-to-open swimming pool, spa, gym and an open space area typical of five-star hotels.

Among Astoria Plaza's best come-on for its all-suites serviced apartments is the price. For US$58 (P3,000), guests can avail of its suitably furnished one-bedroom suite and for US$96 (P5,000), guests can stay in a chicly outfitted two-bedroom suite—both for single or double occupancy.

The property also expects to corner a lion's share in the ever-growing meetings and incentive market here and abroad. This group comprises the chunky corporate base with fast revenue turnover.

Astoria Plaza is tailored to meet the businessman's needs. It has a well-equipped business center, concierge, fitness center, laundry and valet-shops, sauna and massage, swimming pool, transportation and shuttle services within the area and 6-level basement parking for 350 cars.

To ensure the security and privacy of its occupants, a video entry phone/device is installed in each unit that allows careful screening of guests.

Astoria Plaza's overall theme interplays the subdued East and West elan that businessmen will find conducive to work and relaxation. Amplifying the maximum use of space is its predominantly black-and-white interiors. Minimal but eye-catching highlights make the property tastefully simple yet classy.

How a developer helps decongest the city

By Tessa R. Salazar

***Kung sa'n ka masaya suportahan ta ka.* Long before this Ilonggo-inspired punchline helped a TV ad for a telecom firm root itself in public memory, Firm Builders Realty Development Corp. had been banking on the unique "flavors" of the provinces to drum up interest in its regional subdivision developments.**

While the rest of the country's housing developers have flocked to the national capital region—an estimated 70 percent of all houses in the Philippines are cramped in the NCR, according to FBRD's Jesus Atencio—provincial developers such as the FBRDC have encouraged NCR-bound developers to look beyond Metro Manila.

Atencio said that one reason for the "weak absorption capacity" in the provinces is that the idea of living in subdivisions is still alien to many Filipinos. "They still don't appreciate (living in subdivisions) that much, but with the help of more developers, we will slowly educate the market."

Part of the firm's after-sales strategies is holding a regular homeowners values orientation workshops where new owners get to interact with other homeowners and be briefed on the different aspects, obligations and responsibilities of living in a subdivision-type community.

The FBRDC, said Atencio, has been in the business since 1987 and has completed 17 subdivisions—all outside of Metro Manila. The mass-housing developer says it can produce up to 100 units a month, or 100 units per project. It has identified more feasible projects outside the Greater Manila Area. Some of its finished projects are Grandview Heights in Naga City; Florvel Homes subdivision in Oton, Iloilo; Grandville subdivision in Bacolod City; Lindaville in Tagbilaran City in Bohol; and Victoria Hills in Zamboanga del Norte.

Atencio said provincial housing developers such as the FBRDC are able to provide affordable decent housing because the labor and materials are considerably cheaper, and this translates to lower package prices on the houses. The use of mass-production techniques that, according to the FBRDC, has standardized engineering and operations practices has enabled the company to achieve economies of scale and offer the public a range of subdivision development and house design options at the lowest possible cost of production.

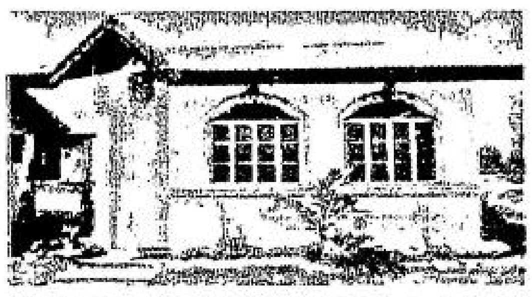
All housing units of the FBRDC, said Atencio, are offered complete. The units are ready for occupancy. Florvel Homes, for instance, was completed in July 2000 in Iloilo and offers open spaces, parks and playgrounds. A single detached unit with a lot size of 90 sq. m and a floor area of 30 sq. m has a package price of P350,000. An 80-sq.-m-lot area with a 30-sq.-m-floor-area unit in Grandville subdivision in Cadiz city could have a package price of P180,000.

"The market (in the provinces) is not that cutthroat, unlike in areas such as Cavite where in every corner there's a subdivision. You compete with everybody."

Trade-off

Atencio adds that, although the market is bigger in the regions, the incomes are not that high. The FBRDC, thus, has a glass ceiling. The glass ceiling is the highest possible market price that a developer can produce a certain quantity of houses.

Buyers, he said, are mostly government employees with a gross monthly income of P10,000. The number of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) buying houses outside of Metro Manila is also increasing, Atencio noted. To address this trend, the FBRDC is developing a marketing program geared toward the OFW market. Atencio also spotted a growing market for young employees 30 years old and below. This set, however, has single members with comparatively higher earnings and no previous record of housing loans. This sector may include newly married couples, with or without children.


DECENT provincial houses at less the cost of their Metro counterparts

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GRANDVILLE Subdivision in Mansilingan, Bacolod City

PrimeLink inks $50-M agreement

PRIMELINK Properties recently signed a memorandum of agreement with a Kansas-based American investment group pledging $50-million as a prerequisite to an investment agreement that will allow the American group to come in as an equity partner with the first $10 million due in the first quarter of 2002.

The sharing shall be 50.15 percent and 49.85 percent once the partnership is effected.

Said Joseph O'Brien, chair of the Kansas-based investment holding firm: "We are interested in partnering with PrimeLink, not only because of its bankable projects but because we also believe that entering into the Philippine property and resort development at this time through PrimeLink's ventures is a wise thing to do as there are great opportunities for leisure and property development growth, even with the country's current economic situation being as it is. It is not difficult to see that it is a good decision on our end to partner with PrimeLink because even after four years of economic crisis its current financial challenges are still very manageable. It doesn't have huge debts like other development firms we touched base with earlier and we also see a good business relationship with its chair and CEO Ralph 'Lito' W. Lopez. With the partnership, PrimeLink shall also pursue new ventures which we believe is in the company's best interest and maximize its potential."

Lopez and PrimeLink have been in the forefront of leisure-oriented development and will pursue its several world-class projects in Subic, Lake Caliraya, Laguna and in Palawan. Primelink has been in the property and resort development scene since 1995, both as an active developer and as a packager of projects for its clients.

According to Lopez, he welcomes O'Brien's group as partner in the realization of their very innovative and lucrative projects.

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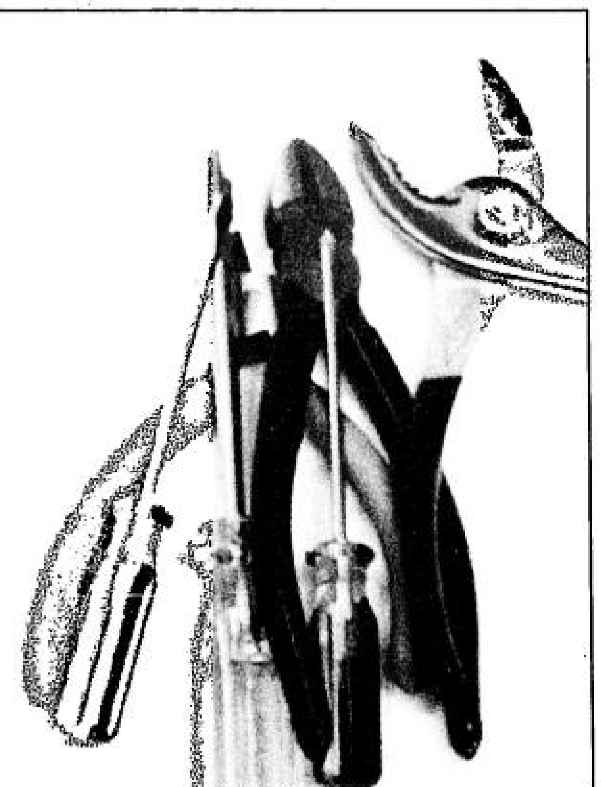

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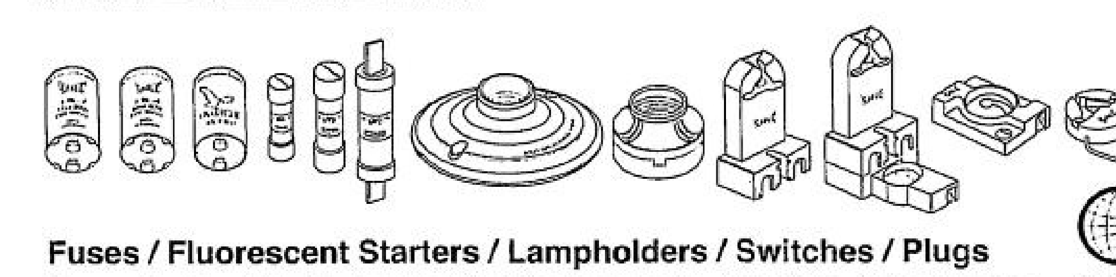

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LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Fitness

How to be a successful morning exerciser

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

LACK of time is a common lament I hear from people who want to exercise but say they can never, well, find the time to do so. Exercising first thing in the morning is the best solution to this problem because there are fewer chances that a busy schedule will interfere with your good intentions. In fact, the most consistent exercisers work out in the morning. Researchers at the University of North Texas led by Dr. David Hill discovered this when they did a series of studies on exercising at different times of the day. He says that morning exercisers are more likely to stick with their exercise programs than people who exercise in the afternoon or at night. This makes sense because as the day goes on, it is too easy to start making excuses why you can't exercise—meetings come up, you feel too tired after a long day at the office, there was too much traffic, etc.

This doesn't mean that if you have been regularly working out in the afternoon or early evening you should shift to a morning routine. Good for you if you have been able to stick to your exercise program in spite of a busy schedule. But if you have been an irregular exerciser or someone who has never been able to exercise consistently, then morning exercise just might be what you need to be successful.

Larks and owls

Sleep experts categorize people as being either larks or owls. Larks are people who are at their mental and physical peak in the morning. Owls are people who are the opposite. They are at their best at night.

Theoretically, morning person should have no problem working out in the early hours of the day. Their bodies are innately geared for action at that time. I say "theoretically" because the motivation to exercise is more complicated than that. But if morning person has a genuine desire to work out, part of the battle is already won because he is not handicapped by having to fight against his natural biorhythm.

The owls or evening people are the ones who really find it hard to exercise in the morning. I should know because I am an owl and I have been exercising early in the morning for the last 10 years. Has it been easy? No way! But it is definitely possible. Has it been worth it? You bet! My day is productive, time-efficient and full of energy. If I didn't exercise that early, it would take me half the morning to really start revving up my engines and I wouldn't be quite all there till noon. And of course, I would end up sleeping at midnight or later, which would just make me wake up even later the next day creating a vicious cycle because my owlish tendencies would get even worse.

The two biggest problems that owls face regarding morning exercise are not being able to sleep early and feeling like death warmed over when they wake up. These are not insurmountable problems but you need to know what to do about them. The following tips are dedicated to all owls who want to exercise in the morning and need an extra push to get them going. Larks can also benefit from these tips to give them extra motivation to work out.

Sleep early

To me, this is the catch-22 of exercising in the morning. You need to sleep early to be able to wake up halfway cheerfully but you have a hard time sleeping early because it is against your nature. Therefore, you really need to discipline yourself to stick to your required bedtime by doing the following:

- Dim the bedroom lights a few hours before you sleep. Apparently, the body responds to darkness by getting sleepy and to light by waking up. In fact, experts recommend that people who have severe sleep problems should not turn on the lights if they have to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night. A small nightlight is more conducive to going back to bed.
- Do not read or watch anything that stimulates your nervous system. If you watch an action movie, don't be surprised if you don't get sleepy right away. My husband likes to fall asleep with the TV on, so we compromise and leave it on the Discovery or National Geographic Channel. Not that these channels are boring; they just don't have the heart-pumping excitement that other shows have.
- Worry and anxiety can keep you up like nothing else can. Do what you have to do to reduce your stress. Some people play soft New Age type music and use relaxation techniques like controlled breathing. I find that a heart-to-heart talk with God followed by counting backward from 100 usually does the trick. On really bad nights, the anxiety-reducing herb valerian can come in handy. Valerian has a good safety track record according to Germany's Commission E (their FDA counterpart) but be prepared because it has an incredibly horrible smell.
- Limit your intake of coffee, sodas, or teas (anything with caffeine)

HOW/p.C3

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Whether you're a lark or an owl, the following tips can give you extra motivation to work out

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30 (PM) - Pata Tim, Braised Pig's Leg's Pieces, Stir Fried Chop Suey, Sweet & Sour Fish Fillet
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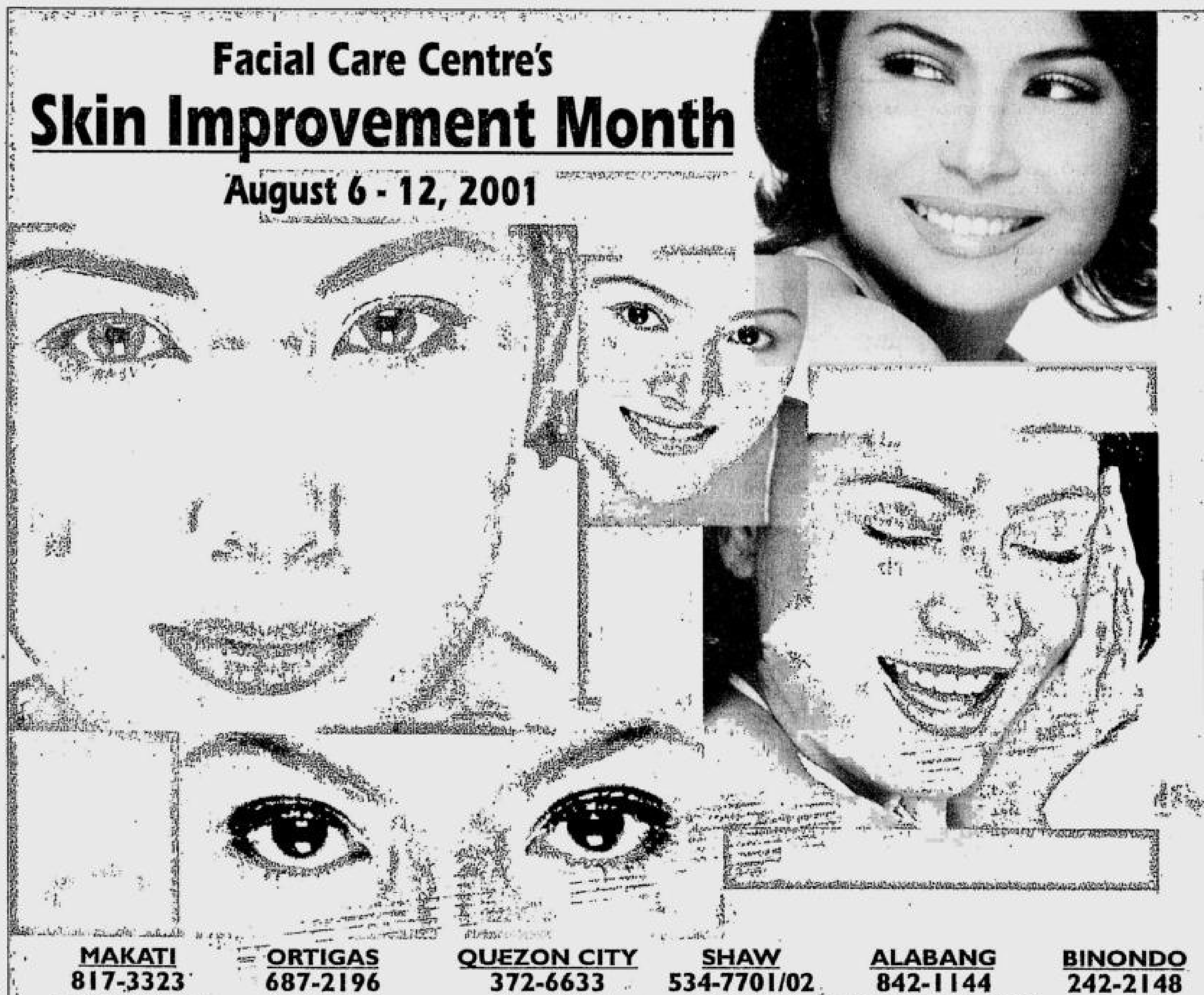

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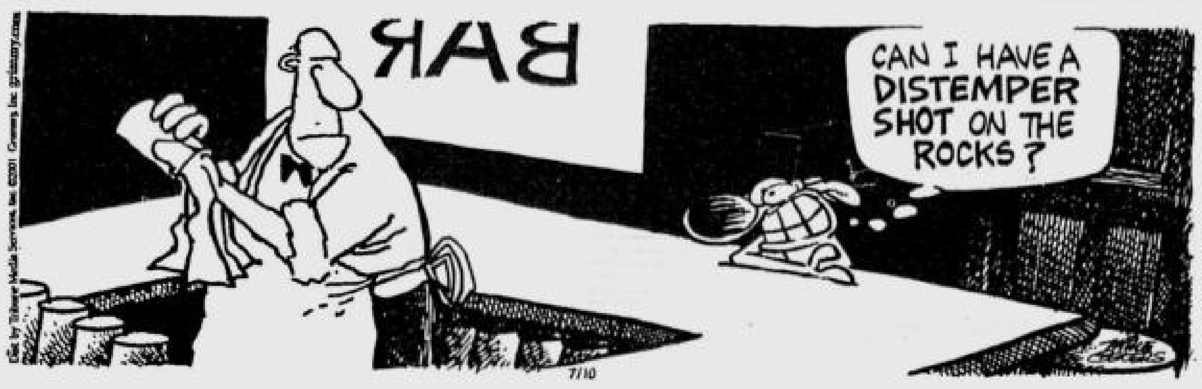
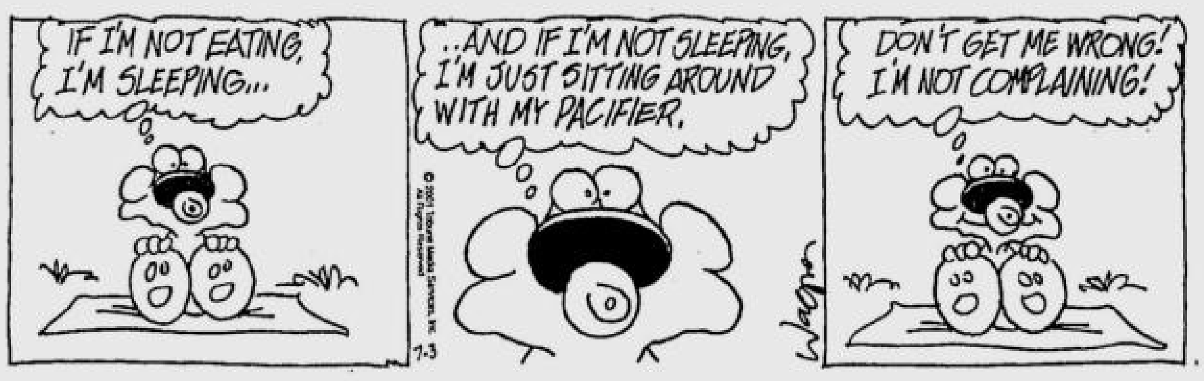

BAR
CAN I HAVE A DISTEMPER SHOT ON THE ROCKS?
7/10

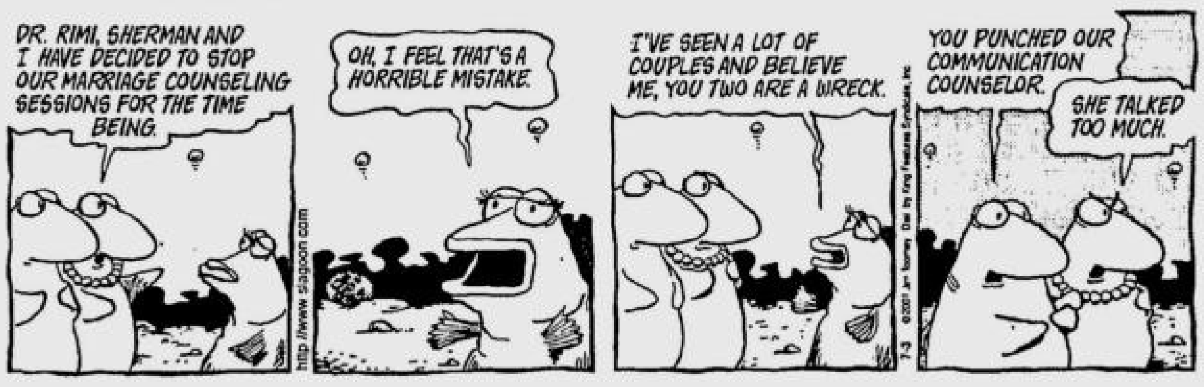
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


IF I'M NOT EATING, I'M SLEEPING...
..AND IF I'M NOT SLEEPING, I'M JUST SITTING AROUND WITH MY PACIFIER.
DON'T GET ME WRONG! I'M NOT COMPLAINING!
7-3
Wagner

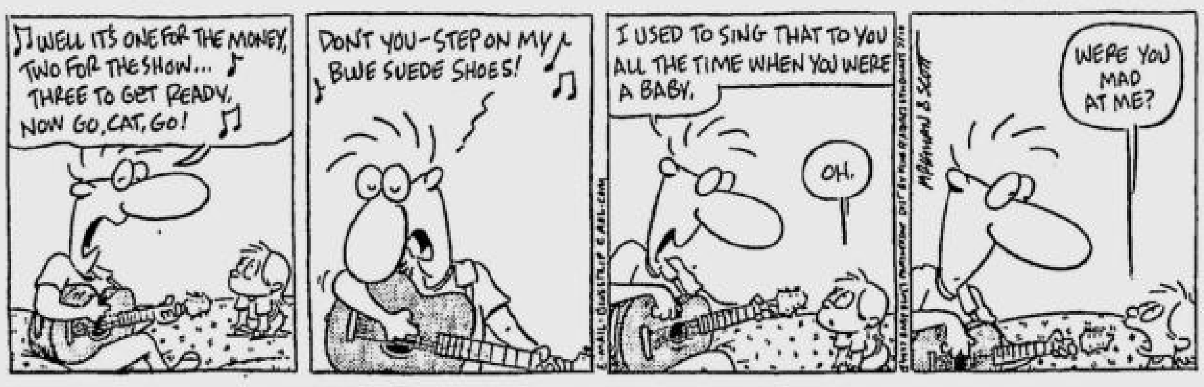
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


DR. RIMI, SHERMAN AND I HAVE DECIDED TO STOP OUR MARRIAGE COUNSELING SESSIONS FOR THE TIME BEING.
OH, I FEEL THAT'S A HORRIBLE MISTAKE.
I'VE SEEN A LOT OF COUPLES AND BELIEVE ME, YOU TWO ARE A WRECK.
YOU PUNCHED OUR COMMUNICATION COUNSELOR.
SHE TALKED TOO MUCH.
http://www.slagoon.com
7-3

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


♫ WELL IT'S ONE FOR THE MONEY, TWO FOR THE SHOW... ♪ THREE TO GET READY, NOW GO, CAT, GO! ♫
DON'T YOU-STEP ON MY BLUE SUEDE SHOES! ♪ ♫
I USED TO SING THAT TO YOU ALL THE TIME WHEN YOU WERE A BABY.
OH.
WERE YOU MAD AT ME?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: John Glover, Stan Freberg, Garrison Keillor, Charlize Theron, David Duchovny, Wayne Knight, Alberto Salazar

Happy Birthday: This is the year to speak your mind, set your goals and show your worth. Recognize your talents and consider how they can be used. Your creativity will be a driving force and should help you gather interest from well-connected individuals who recognize your potential. Your numbers: 5, 14, 17, 28, 33, 36

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Tempers will flare out of control if you get into serious discussions regarding work or a co-worker. Don't say something you'll regret later. Work quietly and refrain from putting in your two cents worth.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Talk to those who can shed some light on your professional direction. You may just need to get in touch with the right person to expand your interests.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let others drag you into gossip that could end up hurting someone else. Your creative endeavors can be developed if you take the time to practice. Changes in your home will be beneficial and comforting.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Love relationships will flourish through travel and group endeavors. Business trips will be successful, but don't make unreasonable promises.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you take on too much, worry and fatigue will result in fevers, infections or flu. Take some time to organize your plan of attack before deciding to take on the world.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Expect your partner to be upset if you have been wrapped up in your own concerns. Make plans to spend some quality time together.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you concentrate on making money, this will be a productive day. Others will be impressed with your creative flair and ability to get the job done quickly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Financial deals will bring in extra cash. Romance is likely if you get involved in unusual forms of entertainment. Don't judge others on their performance today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone you live with will be disgruntled if you haven't been too concerned about household duties. Try to get along by doing the work early and getting out of the house.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Friends and relatives will introduce you to unusual activities. Someone who has a completely different background will captivate you.

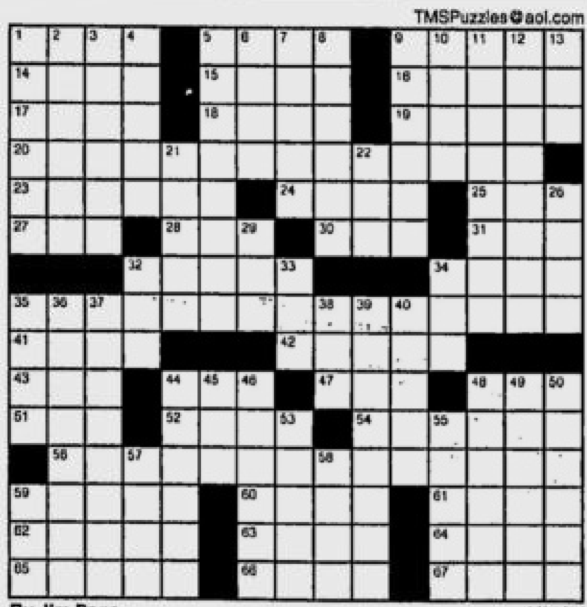
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your innovative ideas and technological knowledge will make an impression on others. Set goals and go after them to achieve success.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your emotional instability may be due to the way your partner is treating you. Try to sit down and talk openly and honestly about your concerns. Things won't improve if you don't take action.

Birthday Baby: Your soft approach captures interest, attention and the hearts of those you encounter. You are caring, warm and genuine. You have an entertaining nature and will always be a crowd pleaser.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Jim Page
New York, NY

6/21/01

ACROSS

1 "Miss __ Regrets"
5 Beanies
9 Oregon capital
14 1996 Tony winner
15 Enticement
16 Rubbish
17 Exxon competitor
18 Perched on the peak
19 Dine at home
20 Gets up?
23 Defeats
24 Actress Merrill
25 Primary color
27 Afore
28 Lubricate
30 Bunco game
31 __ Darya River
32 When actors enter
34 Leaning precariously
35 Calls the secretary?
41 Poetry collection
42 Spotter
43 Annex
44 Disney dwarf
47 Keyboard key
48 Bell and Barker
51 New World monkey
52 As to
54 Rolled parchment
56 Skips work?
59 Legal
60 Woody Guthrie's boy
61 Of course!
62 Related on mother's side
63 Sharp as a tack
64 "Desire Under the __"
65 Eyed covetously
66 Hook's mate
67 Pop quiz

DOWN

1 Prophet
2 Extreme panic
3 As a precaution
4 Puts away
5 Superior examples
6 Mobile starter?
7 Haughty
8 Kind of tank
9 Edberg of tennis
10 Yemeni or Saudi
11 Well-read intelligentsia
12 Widely prevalent
13 Guys
21 Sierra __
22 Lennon's love
26 Easily misled person
29 Iranian desert, Dasht-e __
32 Lb. parts
33 Questioning interjections
34 Part of R.S.A.
35 Arthur and Benaderet
36 Making current
37 Of astrology
38 Clean-air watchdog grp.
39 Sharpener's block
40 Retrieve
44 Counted calories
45 Switch positions
46 Dies like a frog?
48 Sofa section
49 Wake-up calls?
50 Most cunning
53 Stephanie Zimbalist's dad
55 VCR button
57 Fork-tailed flier
58 Take a powder
59 Lion's name?

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

B	A	L	I	■	M	E	T	E	R	■	S	L	A	W
O	L	I	N	■	O	V	U	L	E	■	P	I	N	E
O	D	E	S	■	R	E	B	I	D	■	I	O	T	A
M	O	N	I	T	O	R	■	S	C	A	N	N	E	R
■	■	■	N	O	N	■	S	H	A	N	E	■	■	■
M	A	R	C	O	■	B	E	A	R	D	■	S	S	E
A	B	I	E	■	S	U	N	■	P	E	A	L	E	D
M	I	C	R	O	P	R	O	C	E	S	S	O	R	S
A	D	H	E	R	E	■	R	A	T	■	H	A	V	E
S	E	E	■	B	A	S	A	L	■	P	A	N	E	L
■	■	■	S	I	K	H	S	■	M	O	M	■	■	■
P	R	I	N	T	E	R	■	T	E	L	E	F	A	X
H	I	D	E	■	A	I	K	E	N	■	D	R	U	M
E	L	L	A	■	S	K	I	N	S	■	L	Y	R	E
W	E	E	D	■	Y	E	N	T	A	■	Y	E	A	N

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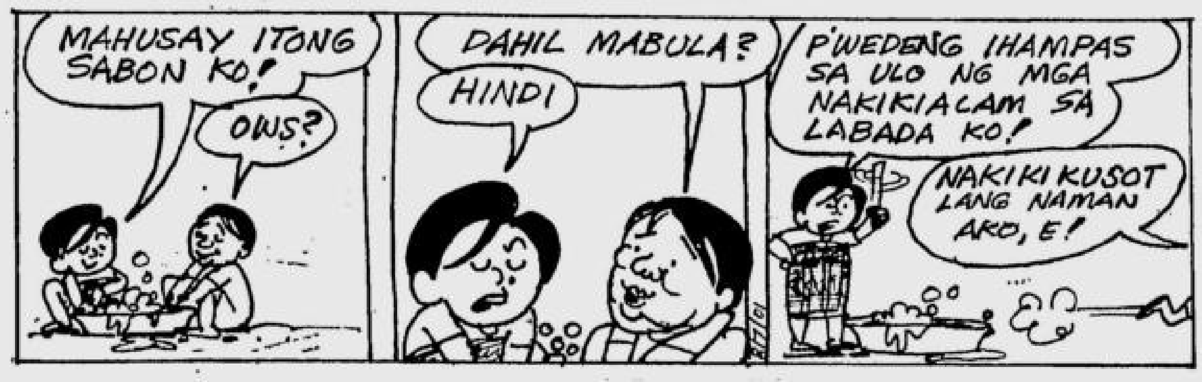
6/21/01

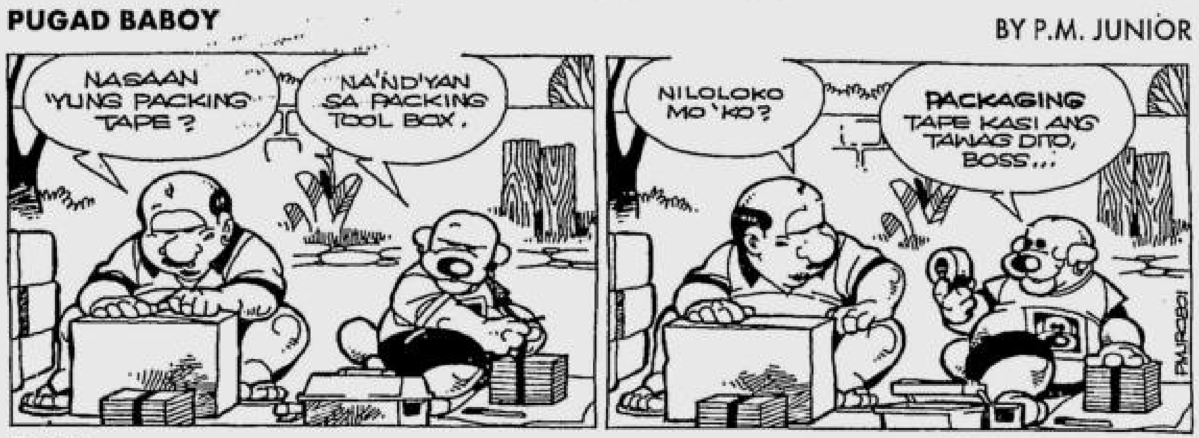
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAHUSAY ITONG SABON KO!
OWS?
DAHIL MABULA?
HINDI
P'WEDENG IHAMPAS SA ULO NG MGA NAKIKIALAM SA LABADA KO!
NAKIKIKUSOT LANG NAMAN AKO, E!

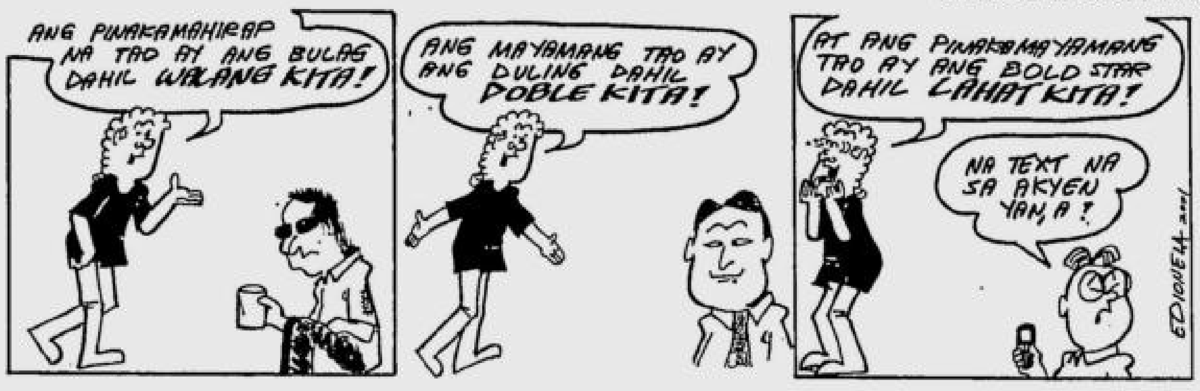
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NASAAN 'YUNG PACKING TAPE?
NA'ND'YAN SA PACKING TOOL BOX.
NILOLOKO MO 'KO?
PACKAGING TAPE KASI ANG TAWAG DITO, BOSS...
PMJR2001

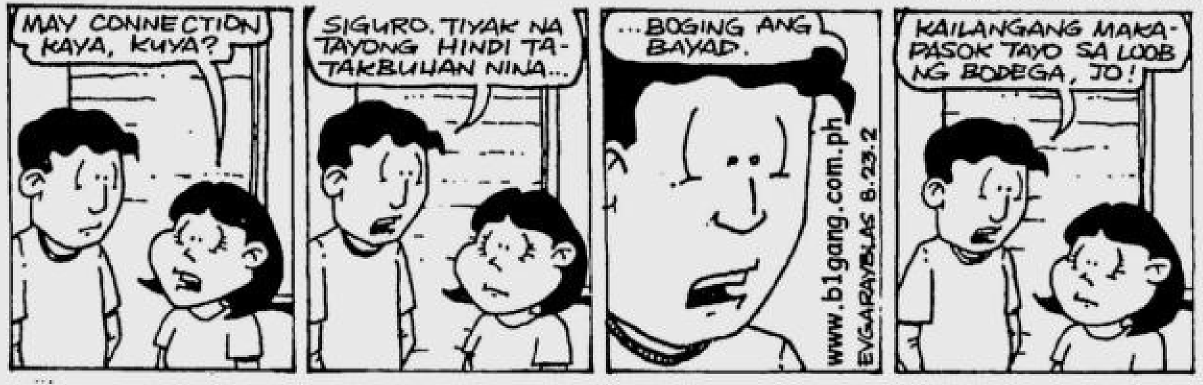
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANG PINAKAMAHIRAP NA TAO AY ANG BULAG DAHIL WALANG KITA!
ANG MAYAMANG TAO AY ANG DULING DAHIL DOBLE KITA!
AT ANG PINAKAMAYAMANG TAO AY ANG BOLD STAR DAHIL LAHAT KITA!
NA TEXT NA SA AKYEN YAN, A!
EDIONELA 2001

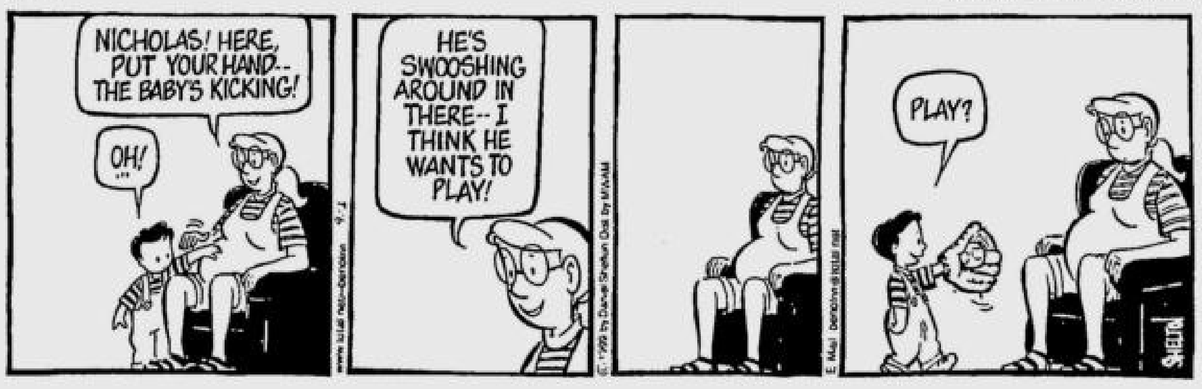
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


MAY CONNECTION KAYA, KUYA?
SIGURO. TIYAK NA TAYONG HINDI TATAKBUHAN NINA...
...BOGING ANG BAYAD.
www.b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS 8.23.2
KAILANGANG MAKAPASOK TAYO SA LOOB NG BODEGA, JO!

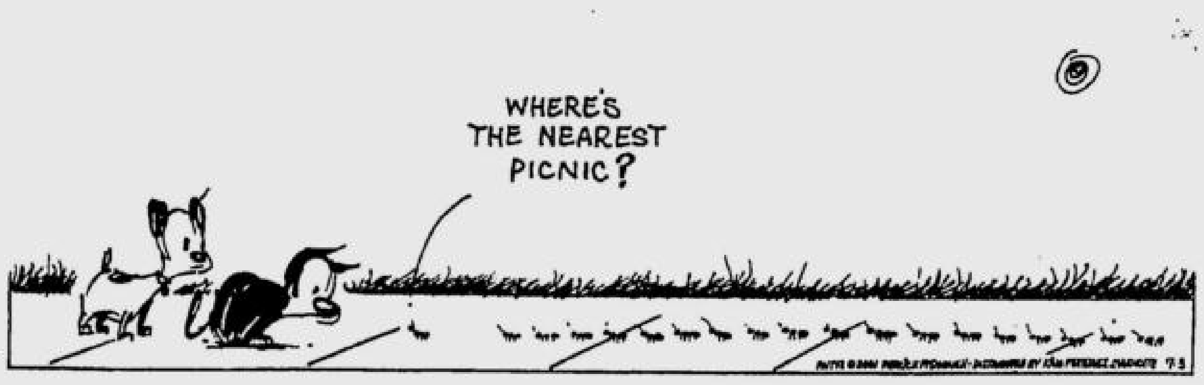
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


NICHOLAS! HERE, PUT YOUR HAND-- THE BABY'S KICKING!
OH!
HE'S SWOOSHING AROUND IN THERE-- I THINK HE WANTS TO PLAY!
PLAY?
SHELTON

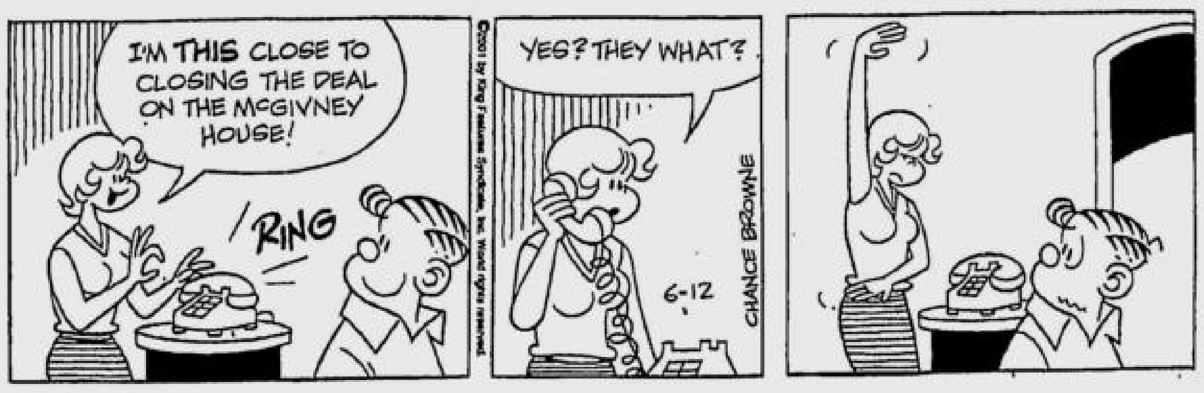
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHERE'S THE NEAREST PICNIC?
7-3

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I'M THIS CLOSE TO CLOSING THE DEAL ON THE McGIVNEY HOUSE!
RING
YES? THEY WHAT?
6-12
CHANCE BROWNE
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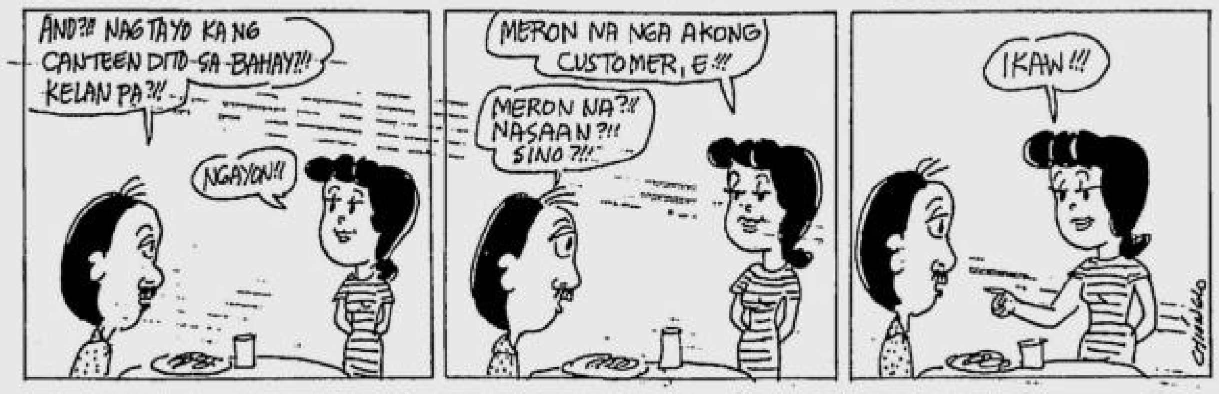
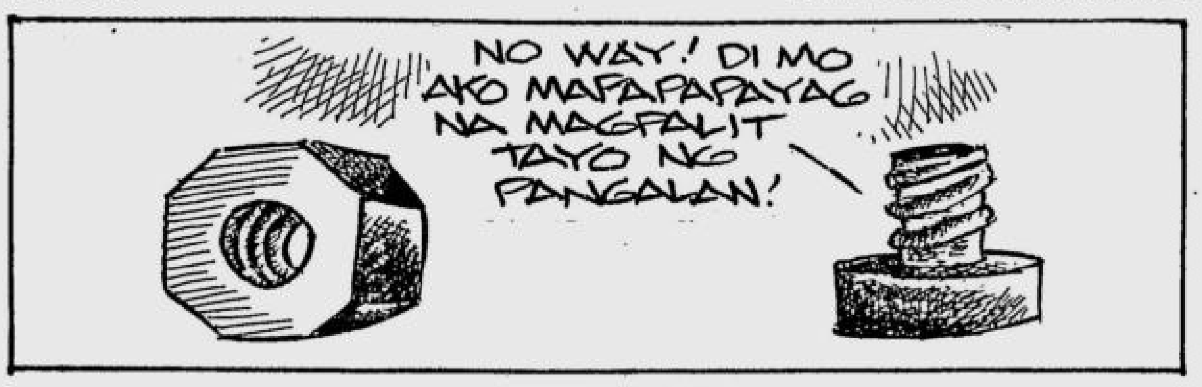
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


AND?!! NAGTAYO KA NG CANTEEN DITO SA BAHAY?!! KELAN PA?!!
NGAYON!!
MERON NA NGA AKONG CUSTOMER, E!!!
MERON NA?!! NASAAN?!! SINO?!!
IKAW!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


NO WAY! DI MO AKO MAPAPAPAYAG NA MAGPALIT TAYO NG PANGALAN!

More cases of teleportation

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

LAST week I featured the letter of Eliseo Ramos, who couldn't figure out how he landed in another town while driving and did not know how he got there. He asked if other readers have had a similar experience. I said it could be either a case of teleportation or amnesia. I didn't expect such a quick response from readers, for which I am grateful.

One said it was simply a case of memory lapse, but several other readers related similar stories which can not easily be dismissed as such. Read on.

Little girl finds herself at grandma's house

I was around 10 or 11 years old then. We lived in a compound consisting of two houses, my *lola*'s and ours. Our house and my *lola*'s house were back to back, but in between was a backyard filled with shady plants and fruit trees. To go from one house to the other, you'd have to walk down the backyard path under the trees which could be scary at night for a young kid.

One such evening, I was sitting on our backdoor steps looking at my *lola*'s house. There was nobody in our house except the maid and I wanted so much to go over to my *lola* because my folks were there, but I was afraid to walk down the path because it was a dark and starless night. I sat there on the steps, very, very sad. All I remember was wanting to go over there and when I looked up again, I found myself at the front door of my *lola*'s house. My *lola* said I even knocked, that was why she opened the door, but I don't remember doing anything. I wasn't even praying to be brought there. All I remember was my great desire to be there.

It happened once more several years later, almost under the same circumstances, and again, without any conscious wish to ask someone to help me... only a very strong desire to do something.

AURORA

Service road to FTI leads straight to Los Baños

This story was told by a friend two years ago. My friend was coming home from a party in Pasig at about 10:30 p.m. and was going to drop off two of his passengers near the Food Terminal Inc. in Taguig. To get there, he entered Fort Bonifacio and turned left at the service road after the Bonifacio gate. He found the route dark, but since FTI should just be straight ahead, he kept following the road. After driving for a long time, he found it strange that he could not locate FTI. He suddenly realized that he was lost and tried to find some common landmarks. When he finally found a familiar landmark, he and his passengers realized that they were already at the Pansol resort in Los Baños, Laguna.

When he related this incident to us, we all laughed at him. But he swore that it was all true. Another friend of ours who comes from Los Baños said that it was virtually impossible for them to have reached Los Baños if they were traveling in a straight line, much less on a service road.

SCORPIO

Walk to barangay hall a few yards away took three hours

This is the experience of my colleague's 49-year-old mother, which happened last year in Barangay Quezon Hill, Baguio City. She lost her way to their Barangay Hall. She said she was walking from their home to the Barangay Hall for a meeting one day at about 2 p.m., when she suddenly noticed that the path she was walking on was more grassy and had more trees around. Also there weren't many houses and people walking on the road. However, she just kept walking, thinking maybe she only hadn't noticed the grasses and trees before. She kept walking on what seemed like an unusual road, thinking why it was that the Barangay Hall was so far away this time when it was just minutes away. She was already getting tired, but she continued walking, until she met a man and asked where the Barangay Hall was.

The man did not reply and just looked at her as if she wasn't there. She was puzzled but kept walking on. Suddenly she saw the waiting shed which was just about 200 meters from their house. She went to the shed to ask the people standing there, and was surprised to see her neighbors and *kumare* waiting for jeepneys going to Baguio City Proper. Her *kumare* asked her where she had to go that she couldn't attend the meeting. Since she couldn't make out what happened to her, she just told them she was late. She asked what time the meeting started and what time it was at the moment and they told her the meeting started at 2 p.m. and finished at 4:30 p.m. and it was now a quarter to 5 p.m. Then she was really shocked because she was very sure she left their house at about 2 p.m. and it took her almost 3 hours just roaming around the same place. She just went back home wondering what happened. Older friends said maybe some spirits didn't like her to go to the Barangay Hall. It has not happened again since. By the way she is not a forgetful (*ulyanin*) woman and I am sure of that.

ISABEL DULNUAN

Taken by UFOs?

About a month ago, a well-known Filipino businessman related an incident that happened to him in the mid-'70s in Rome. He had just come from a meeting with Uri Geller, a close friend of his.

He was driving alone at about 120 kph. At 10 p.m., he saw a bright light in the sky shining in his direction. It was becoming bigger and bigger until the light hit him and covered him. At that point he became unconscious.

When he regained consciousness, he was still driving his car but to his amazement he was about six kilometers away from where he saw the light. He soon forgot the incident until he started receiving messages coming from his head about such deep ideas as the creation of the world and similar religious topics. He also discovered a mysterious lump on the side of his right thigh which was subsequently removed through surgery. The specimen was analyzed and was declared to be of "unknown substance." Was he abducted by alien creatures? No one can tell for sure.

How to be a successful . . .

(From page C1)

to not more than six hours before bedtime. Alcohol and nicotine can also disturb your sleeping pattern.

- Don't do paper work in bed thinking you can get a head start on the next day because work-related thoughts will keep you up at night. Both your body and your mind need time to unwind before going to sleep.

Set a regular time to sleep and exercise

Hill says, "Our bodies' rhythms are inborn, but we reset them every day when our alarm goes off, when we eat our meals and when we exercise." You can train your body to be at its fittest at whatever time of day as long as you do it on a regular basis. Whenever you make changes in your eating, exercising, or sleeping habits, your body reacts like it is undergoing jet lag. That's why people who sleep in on Saturdays and Sundays to make up for more sleep deprivation during the week feel like hell on Monday morning.

Create a 'forced to good' situation

I created my "forced to good" situation by committing to teach a 7 a.m. aerobics class five times a week. I had other instructors who were willing to teach at that time slot but I (selfishly) insisted that I do it so I would be forced to exercise early in the morning. Are there mornings when I wish I hadn't painted myself into this corner? Believe me, many. But I have never regretted doing so after I finish the class because it makes me feel so darn good. I know people who commit to picking up a friend to go for a run or go to the gym so they can't make excuses not to.

Get organized the night before

Prepare your workout and office clothes as well as your office paperwork the night before because mornings are not your best time to think clearly. You will be so stressed out running around like a headless chicken at 6 a.m. looking for your stuff that you will end up using it as an excuse not to exercise in the morning. Besides, preparing your things at night is a psychological tool that convinces your mind and body that you are really going to do that early morning workout.

* * *

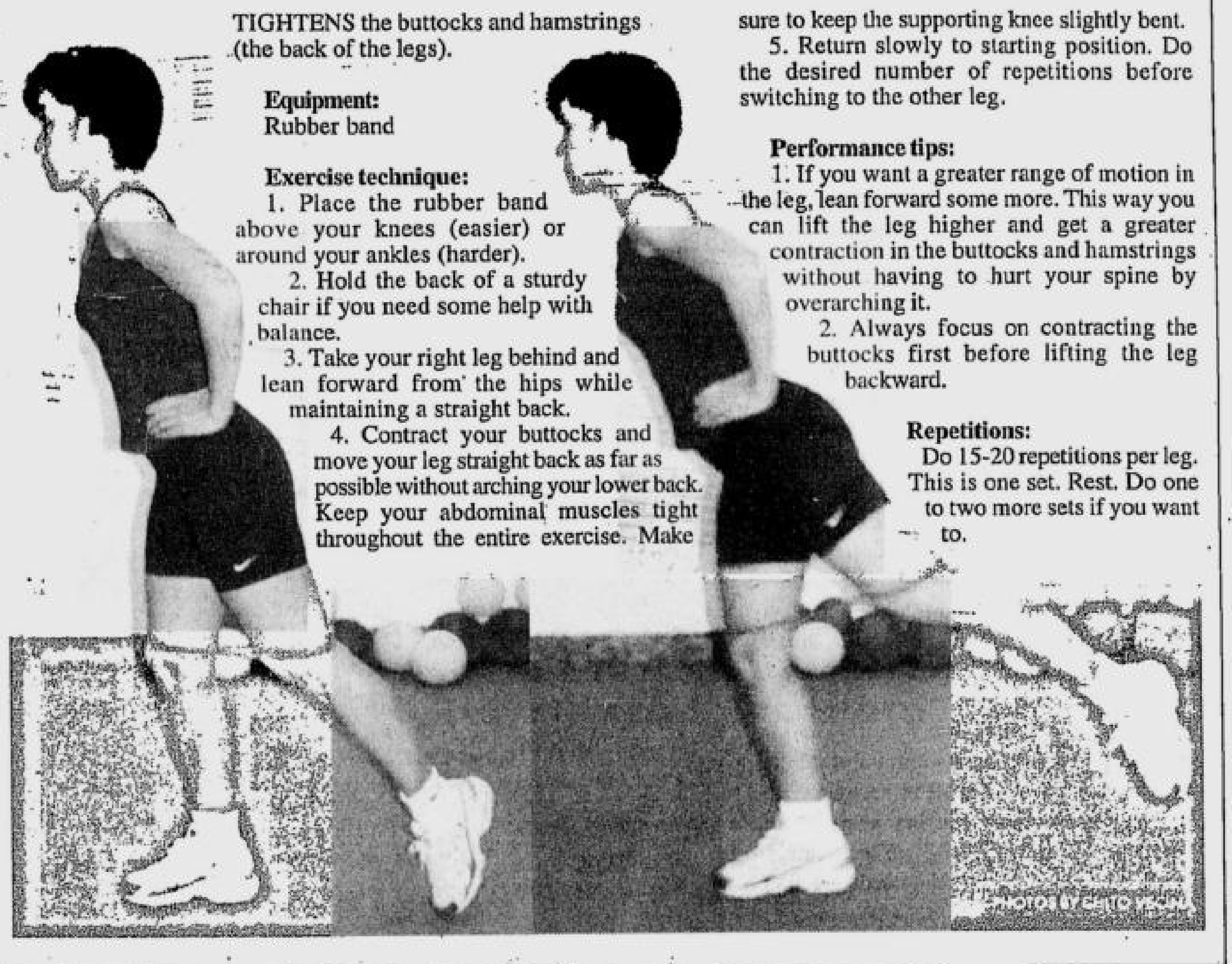
The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines (AFPP) will hold a fitness seminar on Sept. 1 at the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman Campus. Gym topics: Exercise Guidelines for Children, Triathlon Training Program and The Latest in Abdominal Exercise Research. Aerobics topics: High-Low, Pop Aero, Kickboxing and Aerobics-Attitude-Action. For novice aerobics instructors: How to Create Choreography. There will be a special session on Heart Rate Monitoring. Call Lorna at 842-0567.

AFPP is inviting gym owners and managers to attend a free networking meeting on Aug. 18 at Island Cove Resort, Cavite. There will be a panel discussion on The Gym-Spa Connection. Call Lourdes or Edith at 252-9906/252-9170.

For past articles and exercises, visit www.tinajuanfitness.com.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Back leg lift with rubber band



TIGHTENS the buttocks and hamstrings (the back of the legs).

Equipment:
Rubber band

Exercise technique:

1. Place the rubber band above your knees (easier) or around your ankles (harder).
2. Hold the back of a sturdy chair if you need some help with balance.
3. Take your right leg behind and lean forward from the hips while maintaining a straight back.
4. Contract your buttocks and move your leg straight back as far as possible without arching your lower back. Keep your abdominal muscles tight throughout the entire exercise. Make sure to keep the supporting knee slightly bent.
5. Return slowly to starting position. Do the desired number of repetitions before switching to the other leg.

Performance tips:

1. If you want a greater range of motion in the leg, lean forward some more. This way you can lift the leg higher and get a greater contraction in the buttocks and hamstrings without having to hurt your spine by overarching it.
2. Always focus on contracting the buttocks first before lifting the leg backward.

Repetitions:
Do 15-20 repetitions per leg. This is one set. Rest. Do one to two more sets if you want to.

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard
Presented by

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

What are referral and laboratory exam forms? Are these required in seeking outpatient services, where do I get them?

Both the referral and laboratory exam forms are required in outpatient services. A referral form is a slip given by the MEDICard medical coordinator to members seeking outpatient (consultation) services when they need to be *"referred"* to specialists. Likewise, a laboratory exam form, also acquired from the medical coordinator, is given if member is prescribed to undergo laboratory examinations (i.e. X-Ray, CBC, etc.). After every availment, member will be requested to sign the forms and will serve as a guarantee to the clinic/hospital that MEDICard will pay for the approved services/examinations rendered to members.

Meet your MEDICard Team

With more than 18 years of experience, University of Santo Tomas graduate, **Dr. Romanito Cabalona** is one in the field of Medicine who has well-rounded training on Surgery. Doc Romanito, based in Medical City is a fellow to the Philippine College of Surgeons, American College of Surgeons and the Philippine Society of General Surgeons. He is also a diplomate of the Philippine Board of Surgery. A lover of golf, Doc spends most of his free days playing the game, or simply spends quality time with his wife Loreta and their 3 children. You can visit Dr. Cabalona for consultations at room 218 of the Medico Bldg. from Mondays to Fridays, 3 to 5 PM and from 10 AM to 12 noon every Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

MEDICard accredited pediatrician in St. Luke's Medical Center is **Dr. Lera Grace Del Castillo**. Doc Lera is the wife of singer and composer, Mr. Nelson Del Castillo. She is a Medicine graduate from the West Visayas State University and received her training in Pediatrics from St. Luke's. She is a diplomate of the Philippine Pediatric Society and member to the Philippine Medical Association. Also a music lover like her husband, Dr. Del Castillo enjoys her free time by playing the piano and singing. For consultations, you may visit Dr. Del Castillo at St. Luke's Medical. Center, Mondays to Saturdays from 1 to 4 PM.

Dr. Jesus Edgar Villano earned his degree in Medicine from the University of Santo Tomas in 1983 and later pursued further training at the Makati Medical Center as an Internist. He also holds subspecialization training in Adult Cardiology from the Philippine Heart Center. Doc Jesus is currently a member of the Philippine College of Physicians and the Philippine College of Cardiology. You may visit him at the Medical Arts Bldg. of the Philippine Heart Center every Tuesday from 9:30 AM to 2 PM and on Thursdays from 3 to 6 PM.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com.

For individual or family membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, please call 817-5136, 817-4985 or 817-5127 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. *Log on to www.medicardphils.com*

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Badminton tournament features world's best players

AFTER 32 years, the Philippines will once again host the JVC Asian Badminton Championships. Organized by the Asian Badminton Confederation, the $150,000 event will be held on Aug. 21-26 at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City.

Expected to lock horns in this tournament are defending champions Xie Xinfang of China (ladies' singles), Korea's Lee Hyo Jung and Kim Kyung Jin (ladies' doubles) and Asia's No. 2 Taufik Hidayat (men's singles) who dazzled Filipino supporters during his recent visit at the JVC Open Badminton Championships. World No. 1 and Asia's No. 1 Gao Ling and Huang Sui of China (ladies' doubles), Sydney Olympic champions Zhang Jun and Gao Ling (mixed doubles) and Tony Gunawan (Sydney Olympics gold medalist) with partner Halim Haryanto are also likely to compete.

The country's top bets, dynamic duo Kennie and Kennevic Asuncion, who dominated the recent JVC Open Championships, will lead the local pack into the tournament. Joining them are the Llanes brothers Melvin and Jaime, national team members Ian Piencenaves, Jaime Junio Jr. and Arolas Amahit Jr.

One of the high points in this year's championships will be the Asian Badminton Rankings which was launched in 1999 to recognize the efforts and keep Asian players inspired and driven. Whoever finishes No. 1 in their categories will be seeded No. 1 and receive a JVC product, plus a cash prize of $1,000.

PHILIPPINES' top bets Kennevic and Kennie Asuncion

NELSON Asuncion, James White, former First Lady Amelita Ramos, Gen. Edgar Aglipay

MASAYUKI Mochida, Faustino Salud, Princess Galura, Kazue Salud, Ricardo Garcia and BoyBlue Ocampo

"In the 75 years of JVC's existence in the world, our mission has always been to enrich lives by not only providing state-of-the-art breakthroughs in the field of home entertainment, but also through social and cultural development," said Mamoru Otake, associate director and president of Asia and the Middle East Company, during the press conference on July 26 at the Manila Galleria Suites.

True to their mission, JVC has been the title sponsor of the Asian Badminton Championships since 1997 and has been promoting the Fifa World Soccer since 1982 and other sports events as well.

"With the many world-class players coming during this event, we hope that many Filipinos will watch them play and become enthusiasts of badminton. We strongly hope that this event will be a turning point for the Philippine badminton scene so that the Philippines will also have world-class players like the other Asian countries," Otake also said.

Other distinguished officials present at the press conference hosted by Anthony Suntay were former First Lady and PBA president Amelita Ramos, executive vice president Gen. Edgardo Aglipay, PSC commissioner Ricardo Garcia and POC president Celso Dayrit. JVC (Phils.) president and CEO Toshinori Yokokawa, IMG director for badminton-Asia James White and JVC (Phils.) chair lawyer Faustino Salud.

Visit www.jvc-badminton.com.

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Beauty Bar, Glorietta II	*July 28 – 31*
Essenses, Rustan's Makati	*August 3 – 9*
SM Megamall	*August 14 – 20*

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Coconut is a good hair-conditioning agent

A RECENT study has showed that coconut milk contains moisturizing ingredients and hair nutrients that include protein, Vitamin D and calcium, and other vitamins and minerals that nourish both hair and scalp.

This scientific discovery confirmed the wisdom of old folks in using coconut milk to keep their hair black and healthy.

The study yielded the same conclusion, prompting Procter & Gamble to add coconut milk to a new variant of its popular line of Ascend moisturizers.

Reinforced by calcium and Vitamin D, the essential amino acids repair damaged hair, nurture the hair roots, rejuvenate the scalp and help grow full-bodied strands of gleaming black, healthy hair.

As a conditioning agent, coconut milk softens the hair, making it supple and manageable, and giving it that moist, refreshing look and feel.

"That is the reason this new variant is called Ascend Extra Care," says P&G associate brand manager Doris Teo.

Ascend Extra Care's coconut milk comes in addition to its conditioning agents and emollients from *shouwu*, a Chinese herb traditionally used to blacken hair and give it a uniform deposition and more shine.

Like coconut milk, *shouwu*'s rich moisturizing properties are the key to keeping hair black and lively.

Studies show that faded and brownish hair results from moisture loss caused by exposure to elements such as pollution, sun and abrasion.

Moisture loss makes hair dry and brittle, weakens internal structure and increases surface damage, resulting in split ends and broken strands.

To restore lost moisture, P&G puts into Ascend a unique conditioning profile with patented gel network technology to boost the level of its moisturizing ingredients.

"And just as coconut is regarded widely as a complete food, Ascend Extra Care is here as a complete hair moisturizer," adds Rommel Fuentebella, P&G associate market operations manager.

Beauty convention features new products and workshops

NU Skin Philippines will hold a grand convention on Aug. 10-13 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. With the theme, "Breaking All Barriers," the event will feature product launches, training workshops and motivational talks from the company's top officials, among them, Grant Pace, a legendary name in multilevel marketing.

Sandie Tillotson, senior vice-president of Nu Skin Enterprises, recently recognized as one of Feminine Fortunes Magazine's Women of the New Millennium, will be a special guest at the annual convention.

One of the event's activities is a media conference on Aug. 10, where Nu Skin's latest products, Cordymax Cs-4 and Overdrive, both dietary supplements, will be introduced. Tillotson and Pace will head the Nu Skin panel during the presscon.

Nu Skin is a division of Nu Skin Enterprises, which operates in over 30 markets including Asia, Europe, North and South America, Australia and New Zealand. Founded in 1984 in Provo, Utah, Nu Skin markets more than 100 premium quality personal care products created specifically for person-to-person distribution. Call Nu Skin hotline at 689-0333 or visit www.nuskin.com.ph.